

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

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IN RE: SIX APPLICATIONS FOR THE REMAINING CATEGORY
SLOT MACHINE LICENSE IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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PUBLIC HEARING

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BEFORE: Linda Lloyd, Presiding Officer
William Ryan, Chairman
John McNally, Commissioner
James Ginty, Commissioner
Gregory Fajt, Commissioner
Keith McCall, Commissioner
Jennifer Langan, Ex-Officio Designee

HEARING: Thursday, May 9, 2013
9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Lincoln Financial Field
West Club Level
1020 Pattison Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19148

Reporter: Jazmin Arce

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NONE OFFERED

P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Good morning, everyone. My name is Linda Lloyd and I'm the Presiding Officer for this Public Input Hearing conducted by the Gaming Control Board, addressing the six applications for the remaining Category 2 Slot Machine License in the City of Philadelphia. Before we begin, if you could turn off, or to vibrate, all your cell phones, et cetera, so we don't disturb those speaking today.

I call to order this Public Input Hearing for the Category 2 Applicants, Market 8, Market East Associates; Casino Revolution, PHL Local Gaming, LLC; Hollywood Casino Philadelphia, PA Gaming Ventures, LLC; The Provence, Tower Entertainment, LLC; Stadium Casino, LLC, and Wynn Philadelphia, Wynn, PA, Inc. The date is Thursday, May 9th, 2013, and the time is 9:01. And the location is the Lincoln Financial Field, West Club Level, 1020 Pattison Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19148.

This Public Input Hearing is convened by the Gaming Control Board pursuant to, and is required by Section 1205(b), the Gaming Act. Board members present today for the hearing are to my immediate

1 right, Chairman Bill Ryan, Commissioner John McNally
2 and Commissioner Jim Ginty. And to my left,
3 Commissioner Greg Fajt, Commissioner Keith McCall and
4 Representative for Treasurer, Rob McCord, Jen Langan.

5 As a result of an accident late last
6 year that required some corrective surgery last week,
7 Commissioner Tony Moscato is not physically here, but
8 will be viewing the video --- or the hearing via our
9 live video stream to hear the comments and concerns of
10 the public. This is the fourth of four days of Public
11 Input Hearing to be held by the Board designed to
12 allow elected officials and the public to express
13 their thoughts, opinions and concerns with the Board
14 about the six proposed projects in Philadelphia.

15 Public officials will have 15 minutes to
16 speak, community representatives ten minutes, and
17 individual members of the public each five minutes to
18 speak. Each speaker should begin their remarks by
19 stating their name and the municipality where they
20 reside, and if speaking on behalf of an entity, who
21 that entity is. All speakers should've signed in and
22 signed an oath at our registration table located when
23 you came in the door. If you have not done so and you
24 believe you are going to speak, please do that or I
25 will not have your name to call.

1 To assist all speakers in adhering to
2 their time limit permitted, we have a stop light timer
3 located in front of the table here. The light will
4 show green, yellow and red. When it's green, the
5 speaker's time is started. When it turns yellow you
6 have 30 seconds left to wrap up. And when it turns
7 red your time is up and you will be expected to take a
8 seat so the next person can speak.

9 If anybody has any questions about our
10 Public Input Hearing, our staff is out at the table
11 and will be happy to answer your questions. Also
12 remind anyone, if you choose, you may submit written
13 comments that will be included as part of the record
14 of this hearing. These written comments may be an
15 alternative to live testimony or in addition to. You
16 may submit those via our website, or hand them to the
17 staff at the registration table. And you can,
18 obviously, mail them to our Board Secretary.

19 We will be accepting written comments
20 until the close of business September 30th, 2013 when
21 the record will be closed for the public input. If
22 you are a speaker today and have written notes or
23 testimony which you'll read from, if you're finished,
24 if you would want to give a copy to the court
25 reporter, who's sitting over here at the table,

1 that'll be helpful for her.

2 There was a copy of the Code of Conduct
3 for the Public Input Hearing available. I expect
4 everyone here today will adhere to the Board's Code of
5 Conduct. Many opinions, positions and viewpoints will
6 be shared, and we're all interested in hearing what
7 everyone has to say. If there are media present
8 today, I'd ask that you would conduct any interviews
9 away from the hearing space, out front or outside.

10 Before we begin with testimony, I'll
11 give a brief description of each proposed project. On
12 February 12th, 2013 each Applicant had the opportunity
13 to present to the public a presentation of its
14 proposed project. These presentations were streamed
15 live through the Board's website, and are currently
16 available on our website for viewing. In addition, a
17 public version of each Applicant's application and
18 other information has been made available for viewing
19 on the Board's website as well. This information will
20 remain on the website as the licensing process
21 continues.

22 The proposed projects are as follows.
23 Market 8, Market East Associates owned by the
24 Goldenberg Group Blue Bella, is located at 8th and
25 Market Street, is proposed to include 2,400 slot

1 machines and 112 table games with four levels of
2 underground parking, approximately 750 spaces at a
3 cost of about \$500 million. Representatives here
4 today on behalf of Casino Philadelphia are David
5 Adelman, David Mercuris and Adam Rosenzweig.

6 Casino Revolution, owned by PHL Local
7 Gaming, LLC, is to be located at 3333 South Front
8 Street and Packer Avenue. It is proposed to include
9 2,000 slot machines, and 85 table games, and 157,850
10 square feet of space with 250 hotel rooms, at a cost
11 of about \$428 million. Representatives here today on
12 behalf of Casino Revolution are Joe Procacci, John
13 O'Riordan and John Burke.

14 Hollywood Casino Philadelphia, owned by
15 PA Gaming Ventures, LLC, is to be located at 7th
16 Street and 700 Packer Avenue. It is proposed to
17 include 2,050 slot machines, 82 table games and
18 100,000 square feet of space with 3,500 parking spaces
19 at a cost of about \$480 million.

20 The Provence, owned by Bart Blatstein's
21 Tower Entertainment, LLC, is to be located at 400
22 North Broad Street and Callowhill. It is proposed to
23 have 3,000 slot machines, 150 table games on 120,000
24 square feet of gaming space with 125 hotel rooms and
25 60,000 square feet of shopping space at a cost of

1 approximately \$700 million. The representatives here
2 today on behalf of Provence are Bart Blatstein, Jill
3 Alexander and Michael Fabius.

4 Stadium Casino, LLC, owned by the
5 Cordish Companies and Parx is to be located at 900
6 Packer Avenue and 9th Street. It is proposed to have
7 2,000 slot machines, 125 table games and 200,000
8 square feet of space, along with a 240 room hotel, and
9 2,500 space parking garage at the cost of about \$400
10 million. The representatives here today on behalf of
11 Stadium Casino are James Doherty.

12 Wynn Philadelphia, owned by Wynn PA and
13 Wynn Resorts, is to be located at 2001 Beach Street
14 and 2001 to 2005 Richmond Street. It is proposed to
15 have 2,500 slot machines, 100 table games in 150,000
16 square feet of space with a 300 room hotel at a cost
17 of approximately \$897 million. Representatives here
18 today on behalf of Wynn Philadelphia are Annie Allman
19 and Christopher Soriano.

20 These are the six projects about which
21 the Board will hear public input today. We will get
22 to that immediately. Our first speaker on the agenda
23 is Dave Bernheim. And when I call your name, if you
24 can come up to the podium here in the middle.

25 MR. BERNHEIM:

1 Thank you, and good morning. My name is
2 Dan Bernheim, and I am a resident in Montgomery
3 County. And I appreciate the opportunity of having
4 the ability to address this Commission about a very
5 important decision that it is about to make. If I may
6 steal a moment of my brief time just to tell you who
7 it is that is before you. Hopefully that will give a
8 drop of weight to that which is about to be said and
9 not detract from it.

10 I am a lifelong Philadelphian. And I
11 have graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. I
12 went to law school at Villanova. I obtained an LLM
13 from Temple. I thus have a terrible time when it
14 comes to Big Five Basketball as to what to choose.
15 I've practice law here in the City of Philadelphia for
16 over 33 years, and I have been at some of the major
17 firms in the law firm --- in the community. I've had
18 my own law firm, and currently serve as the managing
19 partner in the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman, Spitzer,
20 which is based out of New Jersey, for its Philadelphia
21 office.

22 I may single handedly be testing that
23 theory as to whether anyone is more disloyal than
24 lawyers, other than baseball players. In any event,
25 the nature of my practice is commercial litigation. I

1 represent many of the financial institutions in the
2 area, as well as some professionals and also some real
3 estate developers.

4 Most recently, however, I've had the
5 distinct privilege of serving as a Commissioner in
6 Lower Merion Township. As such, most of my recent
7 experience has been on the receiving end of public
8 comment, and not standing before those making it. I
9 have learned for that experience, however, as those
10 who have addressed me, be it on the nuances of storm
11 water management and/or to the questions about our new
12 zoning along City Avenue, that you do not know from
13 whom you are going to receive information that is
14 going to influence you.

15 I suspect, however, that given the
16 quantity of time that you have all spent considering
17 each of the six applications that are before you, that
18 it is highly unlikely that I'll be able to give any
19 new statistics, or data, or information about any one
20 of those projects, which you are about to consider.
21 Thus, I will not try. What I will attempt to do,
22 however, is hopefully to give you a witness test for
23 its decision, which is something a little bit more
24 than, please don't make a mistake.

25 And in so doing, I would like to ask you

1 that when you make this decision, that you think ---
2 if I may, as I stare out here at Citizens Bank Park,
3 as to one of the more important land use decisions
4 that has been made in this area recently. That those
5 of us who look at it and have been to that facility
6 have frequently said to ourselves that it's a
7 wonderful facility, but it's in the wrong section of
8 town. That when you go to make the decision here,
9 that I submit to you that if you ask yourselves, which
10 of these proposals has the ability to do the most for
11 our city, that there is one that stands apart. And
12 that is The Provence along North Broad Street.

13 And for that program, unlike any of the
14 others, it has an opportunity to be a game changer for
15 the City of Philadelphia. If we are to locate in that
16 facility, restaurants, the hotels, the casino, the
17 sports clubs, that which has been proposed, it will
18 provide something which has not existed as of this
19 date. And that is the impetus for those who are doing
20 commercial and residential development to stretch from
21 Center City north.

22 No longer will the focal point of
23 questions be, are you east of City Hall, are you west,
24 are you south? But for the very first time I submit
25 to you, people will look in the same direction of

1 Willy Penn, they will look north. It will provide an
2 opportunity such that you will be able to do something
3 which, with all due respect to Atlantic City, I think
4 that they failed to do when they made their
5 considerations. As they looked at projects, and it
6 was only the footprint of that project itself that
7 created development. There were no tentacles that
8 went beyond it to create anything.

9 Here this project gives an opportunity
10 to do something which is truly unique, and makes it
11 stand apart from the other projects that you are
12 looking at. It can add value to the City of
13 Philadelphia unlike any of the others. I see my light
14 is blinking. I don't know if I can steal any of that,
15 you know, executive privilege, although I don't stand
16 here in a representative capacity. One more moment of
17 time, if I may. Thank you very much for the
18 indulgence.

19 While I cannot give you any assurance of
20 any of the projects, there is one thing that I do wish
21 to give you assurance of. And that is, of the
22 developer Bart Blatstein. I've known Mr. Blatstein in
23 many different arenas for over 20 years. And Mr.
24 Blatstein has demonstrated himself in a fashion unlike
25 any others. And to tell you the truth, I recall

1 literally on the back of a napkin as he sketched out
2 to me his plans for The Piazza in a Northern
3 Liberties. And I thought privately to myself to
4 invest money in that area, what, are you nuts? And no
5 person can say single handedly they are more
6 responsible for the revitalization or the vitalization
7 of Northern Liberties than Bart Blatstein. He has a
8 proven track record.

9 I also would think that there will be
10 comfort to this Commission when they take a look at
11 the dream team that he has surrounding himself, a
12 group of professionals in order to go forward with
13 this project. And I know that my time is up, and I
14 appreciate your indulgence. But I only ask one thing,
15 that when you go ahead and make this decision, that
16 you make it such that it will have the most impact for
17 the City of Philadelphia. So, at some other point in
18 time we aren't saying, nice project but wrong section
19 of town. Thank you very much for your time.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER:

21 Thank you. Michael Halter.

22 MR. HALTER:

23 Well, who wants to follow that? So, my
24 name's Mike Halter. And I am the CEO of Hahnemann
25 University Hospital. And so, this project would be a

1 neighbor of ours. I have been in Philadelphia for 15
2 years. I live in Lower Merion County. Lower Merion
3 Township in Merion County (sic).

4 When I arrived in 1999 I assumed
5 responsibility for Hahnemann University Hospital,
6 which about 90 days prior to that was hours away from
7 having locks put on its front door, and the hospital
8 and the medical school totally being closed, which
9 everyone felt, at that time, would be devastating. I
10 came in and was able to meet a group of employees who
11 were just totally beat down.

12 That was also a reflection of the
13 neighborhood. The facilities across the street, the
14 facilities up North Broad Street, there was just no
15 development. There was nothing there. It was ---
16 actually many people were afraid to walk out of our
17 door to walk across Vine Street and walk up Broad
18 Street. I think now since the development has started
19 and Bart Blatstein and others have begun to move into
20 that area, we're beginning to see one of the most
21 thriving areas of the city.

22 And as a result of that, it is easier
23 for me as an employer to be able to find employees to
24 come to work to provide care for the patients in need
25 in that community, which many of those patients are

1 patients that come from underserved neighborhoods who
2 qualify for Medicaid or have no pay. And that is a
3 real big concern for us to provide a safe environment
4 where employees can come in and work.

5 I believe that the development of this
6 project will even enhance that. And that is, it will
7 begin like the Convention Center. It will enhance our
8 ability as an employer, and also the medical school as
9 an educator, to be able to bring people down here to
10 Center City, to work in Center City, to pay taxes in
11 Center City. And then, provide the necessary care for
12 all the patients that so need it in our community.

13 I've known Bart for a number of years.
14 Bart has always impressed me as an individual who
15 doesn't look at a project as a project. But he looks
16 at a project as what it will do for the community, and
17 he oftentimes talks about, it's not just a building
18 but it's what are you doing for the entire surrounding
19 area. One of the things that most impressed me, he
20 said that a community is not a community until it has
21 a grocery store. It doesn't matter how many buildings
22 I build. If they don't have a place to go buy
23 groceries it's not a community.

24 And that is the way he thinks. He
25 doesn't think about the individual project itself or

1 his particular project, but what are the services that
2 are available on that. What is going to happen to
3 that community. And that's the thing that's always
4 impressed me about all the projects he has done, that
5 it's not just his building, it's not just his project,
6 but what is he going to do for the entire surrounding
7 area. What is he going to leave for the entire
8 surrounding area.

9 So, we support this project. We think
10 it will be very good. I do believe the location is
11 excellent, and, you know, I hope you see it that way
12 as well. Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER:

14 Jeff Days.

15 MR. DAYS:

16 Good morning. My name is Jeff Days,
17 President of the Blackhawks Athletic Club. We're a
18 youth sports program located in Philadelphia, North
19 Philly community at 11th and Cecil B. Moore. I want
20 to tell you a little bit about our program. We teach
21 contact football, baseball, basketball and
22 cheerleading. We've been in existence for 45 years.
23 Our mission is to provide youth with the appreciation
24 of self worth and commitment to excellence. Implant
25 them with principals of good character,

1 responsibility, respect for the rules and a high
2 educational expectation.

3 With that being said, we started a
4 partnership with the Goldenberg Group, People Helping
5 People Foundation this year. People Helping People
6 sponsored our basketball program this season. Last
7 year our basketball program, we started last year, we
8 could only fund one team. This year, with the help of
9 People Helping People, we were able to do eight teams
10 between ages of five to 16.

11 Also, they assisted us with grant
12 writing and securing other sponsorships throughout the
13 Philadelphia Area. Normally, the Board members go out
14 and secure grants and sponsorships, but that was not
15 the case with People Helping People and the Blackhawks
16 Athletic Club. They came to us and asked, how could
17 we help your program continue serving the youth in the
18 Philadelphia communities. We sat down and had
19 meetings and developed a great partnership.

20 People Helping People really cares about
21 the communities. It shows in their development, such
22 as, the Parkwest Town Center. I've been living in
23 Philadelphia all of my life, and I know that part of
24 West Philly is a very dangerous area. And now, with
25 the Parkwest Center there, I feel a lot safer. We

1 have a lot of our football league meetings over at
2 51st and Parkside because of that.

3 With that being said, when the
4 Blackhawks found out about Market 8 project, we wanted
5 to be a part of that somehow, someway. So, we, in
6 turn, asked, how could we help to make that happen.
7 After watching the video, the major --- after watching
8 the video, one of the key words that stood out was ---
9 to us was, perfection, perfect location. The location
10 at 8th and Market is a perfect location, in our
11 opinion, for a casino. It has historical sites,
12 theatres. It's a very cultural area. And public
13 transportation access from 95, from 76.

14 So, as for me, I live up in the
15 northeast, so I wouldn't have to drive down. I could
16 just jump on public transportation and be downtown in
17 maybe an hour or so. Also, we believe that that will
18 bring more job opportunities to surrounding
19 communities, more revenue for the city and taxes for
20 the state. We also believe that the Goldenberg and
21 all of its partners is a perfect combination. Mohegan
22 Sun, AEG, Hersha Hospitality, and the most important
23 is the surrounding communities. In closing, we'd like
24 to say, as a city and state, we can't miss on Market
25 8. Thank you.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER:

2 Joseph Wolf.

3 MR. WOLF:

4 Good morning. I'm Joe Wolf, and I am a
5 --- currently a retail consultant. I've been in the
6 restaurant business for about 35 years. I started a
7 little restaurant well known here in Philadelphia
8 called Corned Beef Academy. Started out with six
9 employees, wound up with three restaurants and 150
10 employees. My wife and I have been living here in the
11 city for 40 years. We understand the dynamics of the
12 city. We understand the lack of dynamics, also, in
13 the city, which prevails on the east corridor of
14 Market Street.

15 The Market 8 project, to me, seems to be
16 the one that will create the stimulus needed to open
17 up and invigorate what is sorely lacking on Market
18 East. I am a firm believer that the ripple effect for
19 the surrounding restaurants and retail will be
20 significant in that area. The people are local
21 developers. It will not be a standalone, it will be
22 something that will be part of the community that is
23 sorely needed.

24 I know the people very well. I know
25 that they've done. I know what their future brings.

1 And without being too windy, I just am a firm believer
2 that the Market 8 project is the project that should
3 be done here. Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER:

5 Philip Balderston.

6 MR. BALDERSTON:

7 Hi. How are you? My name is Philip
8 Balderston. I'm also a lifelong Philadelphian.
9 Fortunately, I've only been here for about 30 years.
10 I'm also the founder and principal of a real estate
11 company called PT Real Estate Capital. We are a
12 apartment owner and manager throughout the city in
13 almost all the neighborhoods. We have over 1,000
14 apartment units.

15 I started my career in 2002 working for
16 one of the only people that would hire me at that
17 time, which was Bart Blatstein. Our office at that
18 time was in South Philadelphia where he had
19 transformed a obsolete industrial site into a very
20 successful, thriving mixed use development. Very
21 similar to the work that he did in Manayunk, where he
22 basically turned a site that had no commercial use
23 into a residential and commercial site in
24 Philadelphia, which anyone will tell you is not a very
25 easy thing to do.

1 Then he moved to Northern Liberties.
2 And I don't want to bore you with his personal track
3 record, I'm sure you've heard a lot of it. I was
4 there with him at the time. And he created an amazing
5 mix-use development that had a very positive impact,
6 and was an amenity for the surrounding community. He
7 completely transformed the neighborhood and
8 demonstrated that he has a track record for creating
9 large, sustainable, successful economic projects in
10 the City of Philadelphia that lead to major, positive
11 changes in the surrounding communities.

12 So, a few words on The Provence itself,
13 which I feel is the best and most comprehensively
14 designed project. It's clear that the team spent a
15 long time thinking through all the practical issues,
16 thinking through the design, thinking through how to
17 best adaptively reuse the existing building, which has
18 an amazing iconic landmark. Its location on North
19 Broad Street has great access to major roadways. But
20 it's not too close to Center City to really create
21 substantial traffic, which, in the business community,
22 is something that we do worry about.

23 A project that is in too close proximity
24 to a major office buildings and major residential
25 centers could create a little too much traffic in that

1 neighborhood that would kind of detract from the other
2 amenities in that neighborhood. The Inquirer building
3 on North Broad Street does not do that.

4 The potential of having a casino/hotel
5 in close proximity to Center City, and close proximity
6 to the Convention Center is something that's very
7 exciting to us in the business community. If chosen,
8 I have no doubt that the project will be a very
9 successful addition to our great city. Thanks.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER:

11 Michael Gevurtz.

12 MR. GEVURTZ:

13 Good morning, members and staff of the
14 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. My
15 name is Michael Gevurtz. I'm here today to express my
16 support for Bart Blatstein and The Provence. I was
17 born and raised in the region, and currently reside
18 here in the City of Philadelphia with my wife and
19 daughter.

20 Professionally, I own, develop and
21 manage real estate throughout the city. I've known
22 Bart for a significant portion of my life, and I've
23 learned a lot from him. Go on about his --- how his
24 mentorship over the years has shaped the way I think
25 and conduct my life. I stand here before you today to

1 say that I see a direct correlation between what I
2 know about Bart and why he should be awarded this
3 license and therefore, given the opportunity to bring
4 The Provence from an idea to reality.

5 Bart made me realize the obvious, but
6 important fact that the resource of time is unique and
7 it's the only resource that we cannot change, and it
8 continues on regardless of what we do. So, use it
9 wisely. Opportunities present themselves, and often
10 they are either captured or lost due to timing. You
11 can raise more capital, you can adjust human
12 resources, but you cannot make adjustments to the pace
13 at which time moves on.

14 Bart has also inspired me to do things
15 with my own career that I, otherwise, would've thought
16 were impossible. He thinks big, makes sound
17 decisions, has a commitment to the community, and the
18 people he works with and always completes the task at
19 hand. Lots of people have great ideas, but ideas are
20 only as good as what they become. Bart undeniably,
21 from his proven track record, has wherewithal skill
22 set to execute and deliver his vision.

23 Furthermore, through all the dealings
24 I've had with Bart, both professionally and
25 personally, he has always displayed only the utmost

1 character and integrity. I see this as an exciting
2 opportunity for you to make a decision that will shape
3 the landscape of Philadelphia forever.

4 Please know that I am supporting Bart
5 and the Provence, not only because I think it is the
6 best project in the best location. But I know through
7 my personal experience, that Bart Blatstein will seize
8 the opportunity to continue his positive impact on
9 Philadelphia by delivering Provence as planned, and as
10 importantly, on time. Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER:

12 Brian Johnston.

13 MR. JOHNSTON:

14 Hello. Thank you. Thanks for the
15 opportunity to present to the Board and speak to the
16 Board as an individual. My name's Brian Johnston. I
17 live in Center City Philadelphia. Long time resident.
18 Moved to Philadelphia in 1987. I'm an architect.
19 I've been practicing architecture in Philadelphia
20 since I arrived in Philadelphia. Worked at numerous
21 firms on different size and scale projects. I have my
22 own office now, been on my own for about eight years.

23 It is within this context as a design
24 professional and a long time resident of Center City,
25 Philadelphia that I'm phrasing my comments to you

1 today in favor of the Market East Market 8 proposal.
2 I'm basing my opinion on two overarching interrelated
3 issues that the Market 8 proposal presents. Its site
4 location with its enormous potential, and its proposed
5 hybrid mixed-use proposal --- program proposal.

6 I think it's the combination of those
7 two things that makes this a superior proposal for the
8 Center City District and Philadelphia in general, and
9 what the combination of these two issues could mean
10 for the City of Philadelphia. So, regarding the site,
11 and I'm sure you've heard a lot about the site, you're
12 familiar with the site, but with the right
13 development, and I believe Market 8 is the right
14 development proposal, it can certainly be a catalyst
15 for the redevelopment --- revitalization of the Market
16 East area in general. It can have a profound ripple
17 effect throughout the city.

18 The site, as I'm sure you're aware and
19 has been discussed, is a very dynamic site. It's
20 accessible by foot, accessible by bicycle, accessible
21 by automobile, accessible by bus, subway and regional
22 lines. So, this intermodal quality of it makes it a
23 very right site for development with the right kind of
24 development.

25 The site also is significant I think in

1 someone who is active in a neighborhood group, civic
2 group has proposed multiple levels of underground
3 parking, which I think is significant for all the uses
4 proposed at that site.

5 Regarding its hybrid mixed use program,
6 I'll start with what it's not. It's not an inward
7 focused big box casino. By virtue of its program of
8 lifting the casino up above grade level and allowing
9 for amenities, such as retail, restaurants, it can be
10 a contributing member of the urban fabric. So, ---
11 which would activate the streetscape and contribute to
12 the revitalization or vitalization of the Market East
13 area.

14 Kind of a third point, kind of an aside
15 really speaking as an architect or design
16 professional, the addition of such a high caliber
17 architect, sort of, bring form to this proposal, I
18 think is a real bonus both to the project and to the
19 City of Philadelphia. And it's something that should
20 be encouraged.

21 So, I do know Kenny Goldenberg, one of
22 the partners on the development. I've only known him
23 for a few years, but have been quite impressed with
24 him over that time. Particularly, with his
25 philanthropic work, People to People program. Where

1 it wasn't just about cutting the check. I remember
2 running into him at an afternoon where we were
3 painting a local school in our neighborhood.

4 Our office is very engaged in our local
5 neighborhood, we're very happy to have Ken Goldenberg
6 contribute to that. Not just monetarily, but
7 physically being there helping repaint a school that
8 otherwise couldn't afford it. So, in summary, I
9 believe the Market 8 proposal with the synergetic
10 combination of site and mixed-use program would be a
11 transform --- would be transformative for the Market
12 East area, and would provide the greatest return for
13 the City of Philadelphia. Thank you very much.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER:

15 Jose Sanchez.

16 MR. SANCHEZ:

17 Good morning. My name's Jose Sanchez.
18 I live in Key Biscayne, Florida, a suburb of Miami.
19 I'm here to speak on behalf of Joe Procacci and Casino
20 Revolution. Thank you for having me. I've known Joe
21 Procacci for more than 25 years. I was working for a
22 company in Miami. The owner of the company gave me a
23 blue book, which is a book that lists all licensed
24 produce companies.

25 I was told I needed to sell 30

1 truckloads of onions. I never sold a bag of onions.
2 I began to cold call, and soon I sold a load in New
3 York, another in Boston. And then, I called Procacci
4 Brothers Sales Corporation in Philadelphia. I got the
5 onion buyer on the phone, spoke to him for a little.
6 He then told me he was going to put his boss on the
7 phone. That's the first time I met Joe, be it over
8 the phone.

9 After talking to Joe for a while, I felt
10 pretty good about selling him a load, maybe two loads,
11 of onions. He then shocked me. He said he would buy
12 everything I had if I wanted to. I told him that the
13 company that I worked for needed to be paid fast. He
14 said that wouldn't be a problem. We sold him some 20
15 truckloads of onions, and he paid just like he said he
16 would.

17 I quickly realized I needed to find out
18 who Joe Procacci is. Joe Procacci's one of the
19 biggest and best tomato growers in the United States,
20 North America. He has today what is considered the
21 best eating tasting tomatoes in the business, UglyRipe
22 and Santa Sweet. Procacci Brothers Sales Corporation
23 is one of the largest wholesalers in the United
24 States, North America. Joe has a great name. Joe
25 Procacci is a legend in the produce business. He pays

1 his bills faster than anybody I know.

2 Over the years I found out a lot more
3 about Joe, in business and who he is as a person. I
4 realized that he's great at everything he does and
5 puts his mind to. From the produce business to owning
6 and operating championship golf courses, to running
7 the clubhouses that serve those golf courses, the food
8 at the restaurants of those clubhouses is some of the
9 best food you'll find anywhere.

10 One thing that impresses me about Joe is
11 his ability to keep his employees. Some of his
12 employees have worked for him longer than I've even
13 known him. I think that says a lot about him, and a
14 lot about him as an employer. I'm very proud of Joe
15 Procacci. He is a man of honor, integrity, he is a
16 man of his word. Joe is fair. He is a family man, a
17 devoted husband, a great friend, one I'm fortunate to
18 have. He is a mentor. Joe Procacci's like a father
19 to me.

20 To say that Joe Procacci is good at what
21 he does is to say Babe Ruth was a good baseball
22 player. Joe is great at what he does and what he puts
23 his mind to. So, when writing this I thought about
24 all the great qualities Joe Procacci has. And there
25 was one that stood out. One that was most important

1 to me. One that I know will be most important to you.
2 You see, Joe Procacci always does what he says he's
3 going to do.

4 So, in closing I could tell you that.
5 That Joe will do what he tells you he's going to do.
6 You can count on that, and Philadelphia's lucky to
7 have him. Thank you very much.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER:

9 Michael Saadeh.

10 MR. SAADEH:

11 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My
12 name's Michael Saadeh, I'm the president and CEO of
13 Vineyards Development Corporation in Naples, Florida.
14 I've been associated with Mike and his brother, Joe,
15 for the last 26 years. The Vineyards is a 2,000 acre
16 development in Naples. When Joe and Mike first sold
17 those 2,000 acres they were undeveloped tomato fields.
18 Nurtured by the vision, drive and the financial
19 wherewithal of Joe and his brother Mike, the vineyards
20 is a thriving area of 40 separate communities with
21 over 2,800 homes, 36 holes of championship golf,
22 70,000 square feet of country club with dining,
23 fitness, tennis and swimming pavilion and seven
24 affiliated companies.

25 The other community amenities include

1 over seven miles of walking and bicycle trails, a
2 large shopping center, a grocery anchor, Walgreens
3 drugstore, restaurants, service station, a national
4 bank, a regional hospital, a community park and
5 elementary school. Those were all built in the last
6 26 years under their guidance.

7 The Vineyards also was home for the PGA
8 Championship Tournament for five consecutive years in
9 the mid-'90s. I joined the Vineyards since its
10 inception in 1987. I saw it transform from tomato
11 fields to one of the finest developments in Naples.
12 During this time, it was the guiding principles of
13 Mike and Joe Procacci that allowed the community to
14 prosper, even through the hardest economic times.

15 Joe and Mike started in this area
16 selling tomatoes as young children. From there,
17 they've grown into two action businessmen with these
18 guiding principles. Always deal fairly and honestly,
19 obey the rules, engage and invest in your community,
20 and always pay your debt as soon as possible. The
21 Vineyards is an excellent example of the Procacci's
22 vision of leadership in implementing these principles.

23 First, with regard to fair and honest
24 dealings, the community was developed in Naples, which
25 had very little development in the area when we first

1 started. Nonetheless, working with Collier County we
2 donated 27 acres of land to public elementary school,
3 40 acres for public community park and two and a half
4 acres for the fire station. In addition, we built a
5 four lane highway with walking and bicycle trails and
6 lush landscaping, which connects two major arteries.
7 Then the Procaccis donated the roadway to the county
8 for the benefit of all the residents.

9 In addition, when most developers will
10 use a lending structure called the community
11 development district in which the burden of paying for
12 the infrastructure with ultimately fall on the new
13 home purchasers, the Procaccis didn't do that. They
14 made their own investment in the property, and created
15 a community that was very attractive for the
16 purchasers.

17 When the Vineyards was first developed,
18 the land was sold to individual builders and they were
19 building residence --- the homes for the residents.
20 The Procaccis saw that this was not resulting in the
21 kind of value that they wanted for their customers.
22 So, then they made the decision to engage in a
23 building company. And since the forming of the
24 company, we've built over 1,500 homes that range in
25 price between \$300,000 to over \$3 million.

1 Finally, they've been outstanding
2 corporate citizens in Collier County, which both
3 demonstrates the fair and honest dealings as well as
4 their second doctrine of obeying the rules. With
5 regard to the rules, the process of developing such a
6 large community in Florida is quite expensive, and
7 paperwork all intensive. On that note, the Procacci
8 brothers have always maintained all appropriate
9 licensing, followed all local ordinances, and they
10 have an excellent reputation in Florida and Collier
11 County.

12 This is further evidenced by
13 participation in local charities, including the YMCA,
14 Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, the David Lawrence
15 Center for Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Foster Children of
16 Collier County, the American Red Cross, the Junior
17 Diabetes Foundation, the American Cancer Society,
18 American Heart Association and multiple, multiple
19 catholic charities.

20 But the charity that we're most proud of
21 is for the folks of honor. We raise money for the
22 spouses and children of our killed or disabled
23 military veterans. The Vineyards maintains the number
24 one ranking in the entire State of Florida in
25 fundraising for the folks of honor going through

1 today. We also are involved in multiple civic
2 associations in Naples. We're part of Naples Area
3 Chamber of Commerce, the Collier Building Industry
4 Association, Economic Development Council, and
5 multiple other organizations.

6 The Procaccis desire to do everything
7 correctly by their highly professional approach, which
8 has further enhanced the reputation of the community.
9 At one point, we had over 500 full time employees, and
10 the Procaccis insisted on having the best trained
11 staff available to ensure compliance with all legal
12 and ethical requirements. Over 90 percent of our
13 employees are local from Southwest Florida.

14 In closing, I will tell you that based
15 on the history and experience that we've had in Naples
16 for 26 years, I think the vision that they have will
17 transform here and will give you a very successful
18 project in Philadelphia. Thank you for your time.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER:

20 Patrick Brown.

21 MR. BROWN:

22 Good morning. I'm here on behalf of the
23 Wynn project. My name is Patrick Brown. I am 42
24 years old, and I am the proud father of a 17 year old
25 daughter, Morgan Brown. I was born and raised in a

1 Port Richmond community, as well as my whole Brown
2 family dating back 100 years. I am the founder and
3 CEO of the Morgan and Smokey Brown Foundation, which
4 gives scholarships to children, young men and women in
5 the Port Richmond and Fishtown communities.

6 Over the past five years my foundation
7 has given \$500,000 to children in my neighborhood to
8 go to high schools, catholic high schools. Because in
9 our areas, with the cost of tuition rising it's tough
10 for working middle class families to afford a high
11 school education.

12 I am also president of the Port Richmond
13 Business Association, the President of Port Richmond
14 Community Development Corporation, the President of
15 Union Consultant Services, and also the President of
16 Riverwards (phonetic) Occupational Medicine and
17 Wellness Center. I donate hundreds of hours a year to
18 St. George School, where I still assist as a lunchroom
19 monitor almost every day, even though my daughter
20 graduated in 2010. I was the athletic director for
21 St. George School, which is located in Port Richmond
22 community, until 2012.

23 I still coach multiple basketball teams
24 for St. George School, and also devote 40 to 50 hours
25 a week of my time at nighttime with Department of Rec

1 Center --- Samuel Recreation Center, which is located
2 in Port Richmond. I am also involved with multiple
3 charities, some include Autism Speaks, Leukemia and
4 Lymphoma Society, the Variety Club, St. Christopher's
5 Hospital, as well as local neighborhood charities. As
6 a Matthew Holmes Scholarship Fund and the Lacey
7 Gallagher Scholarship fund, which is located in
8 Fishtown.

9 I support the Wynn project coming to
10 Philadelphia, and to the Port Richmond/Fishtown area.
11 Because it'll bring thousands of jobs between the
12 building of the hotel and casino, and once the
13 building is built it will bring thousands of new jobs
14 to our area. Once the casino is built it will bring
15 much needed revenue to our city. As a former local 57
16 Labor Union Worker, I think that it's great to know
17 that this project will be union built, as there are
18 many union families within the Port Richmond and
19 Fishtown area.

20 Of course, we believe once the Wynn
21 project starts, the Wynn Corporation will help
22 revitalize our neighborhood, our playgrounds,
23 recreation centers and schools. Throughout my years
24 of helping out with my neighborhood, whether it was
25 helping out with neighborhood charities, my own

1 foundation, or just helping individuals, I helped ---
2 I have built up a great reputation as a leader within
3 the Port Richmond community. I have a lot of support
4 in the neighborhood because of my charitable work, my
5 mentoring with children, young men and women, and all
6 these same people who stand behind me and with me in
7 support of the Wynn project.

8 Port Richmond and Fishtown is made up
9 mostly of middle class, hard working union families,
10 and I am proud to be one of them. We need and want a
11 man like Steve Wynn in our area. I would love to
12 stand up here today and say that I know Steve Wynn
13 personally on a personal basis and I know his
14 character, but I'm from Port Richmond and I believe
15 Steve Wynn lives in Las Vegas, so I don't know him
16 personally.

17 But I do know his reputation as a casino
18 mogul, which is world renowned. I really hope that
19 the Gaming Board sees the same vision I do for the
20 Wynn project. Steve Wynn has been nothing but first
21 class, and all his casinos are resorts throughout the
22 world. And I feel it would be a big disappointment if
23 a man like Steve Wynn doesn't get the opportunity to
24 show the City of Philadelphia, and especially the
25 19125, and the 19134 area codes what first class

1 casinos and hotels are really about. Thank you.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER:

3 Reverend Robin Hynicka.

4 MR. HYNICKA:

5 Good morning. Thank you so much for
6 this opportunity to testify. My name is Robin
7 Hynicka. I'm the pastor of the Arch Street United
8 Methodist Church, which is located in Center City at
9 Broad and Arch Street. I have been a resident of the
10 City of Philadelphia since 1978. Began my ministry in
11 North Philadelphia at 12th and Lehigh, and then the
12 Frankford Neighborhood, where I still live, and now in
13 Center City.

14 I stand here representing not only my
15 local church, but also a coalition that takes the
16 name, no casino in the city. No casino in our city.
17 And I'd like to present to you a statement that
18 represents the 11 million United Methodists in the
19 world. The statement was adopted at our last general
20 conference in May of 2012, and is the official
21 statement of the church, and is what we bring to the
22 coalition here in our city.

23 Gambling is a medicine --- a menace to
24 society. Deadly to best interest of moral, social,
25 economic and spiritual life. Destructive of good

1 government and good stewardship. As an act of faith
2 and concern, we should abstain from gambling, and
3 should strive to administer to those victimized by the
4 practice. The church's prophetic call to promote
5 standards of justice and advocacy that would make it
6 unnecessary and undesirable to resort to commercial
7 gambling as a recreation, as an escape, or as a means
8 of producing public revenue or funds for support of
9 public or civic institutions.

10 Gambling feeds on human greed and
11 invites persons to place their trust in possessions,
12 rather than in God and each other. It represents a
13 form of idolatry that contradicts the First
14 Commandment. Jesus said, you shall love your neighbor
15 as yourself. Gambling is a means of acquiring
16 material gain by chance, and at the neighbor's
17 expense, is a menace to personal character and social
18 morality.

19 Gambling fosters greed, stimulates the
20 fatalistic faith in chance. Organized and commercial
21 gambling is a threat to business, breeds crime and
22 poverty, and is destructive to the interest of good
23 government. It encourages the belief that work is
24 unimportant, that money can solve all our problems,
25 and that greed is the norm for achievement. It serves

1 as a regressive tax on those with lower income.
2 Gambling is bad economics. Gambling is bad public
3 policy. And gambling will not, and never will,
4 improve the quality of life.

5 We express our concern with the
6 increasing development of casino enterprises, which
7 have taken captive entire communities and corrupted
8 many levels of government with its physical and
9 political power. Public apathy and a lack of
10 awareness that petty gambling feeds organized crime
11 have opened the door to the spread of numerous forms
12 of legal and illegal gambling.

13 We especially express our deep concern
14 that the rapid growth of commercial gambling,
15 especially as states compete for revenue and see the
16 expansion of gambling as a major source of new income.
17 Already, casino gambling is not enough. Soon the race
18 to capture easy revenue through state sanctioned
19 gambling will take over the internet. Internet
20 gambling is an international problem already, and it
21 is virtually unregulated, and has led to corruption,
22 money laundering and the funding of illicit activities
23 around the world.

24 The church's role encountering the
25 expansion of gambling has been likened to David

1 fighting Goliath. The overwhelming influence of
2 gambling, money to allow this industry access to all
3 levels of government and extends even to elected
4 public officials who benefit from contributions to
5 their campaigns. The church is often left as a voice
6 crying in the wilderness, as states look to gambling
7 revenue as an answer to filling budget gaps. U.S.
8 society do not want to pay for the services we expect
9 from government. Raising taxes is an anthem while
10 balancing state and local budgets through gambling is
11 embraced.

12 Gambling's a terrible and unsustainable
13 example of the stewardship of the resources God gives
14 us. It creates social costs that are hidden and often
15 do not become apparent until long after lotteries,
16 casinos, betting parlors and game rooms have become
17 entrenched in communities. In her book, Addiction by
18 Design, we are reminded not only what goes on outside
19 casinos, we've heard only about what goes on outside,
20 but what goes on inside.

21 And I quote, in an interview, one
22 gambler drew a link between the uncontrolled behavior
23 of gambling addicts like herself, and the uncontrolled
24 behavior of the commercial gambling enterprises that
25 solicit her increased wagering action as a way to

1 increase their own growth. They talk about us
2 gamblers, how enough is never enough for us. But
3 enough is never enough for them. They only care about
4 making millions and millions of dollars. We are drunk
5 on gambling revenue.

6 Agreed one representative from Delaware,
7 who was interviewed for this book, the biggest addict
8 turns out to be the state government that becomes
9 dependent on gambling revenue, said a Senator from
10 South Dakota. They become just like the people
11 playing the slot machines, commented Frank Quinn,
12 Director of the South Carolina Center for Gambling
13 Studies.

14 They are looking for a quick fix to long
15 term problems. They start chasing their losses just
16 like the addict does. They suspend their own sense of
17 reality. Some have gone so far as to enumerate the
18 classic defense mechanisms of addiction, by which
19 industries' stakeholders caught in the maximizing
20 momentum of a drive for revenues rationalize their
21 actions. Blaming others, belittling contrary
22 viewpoints, disavowing responsibility for negative
23 outcomes, preferring to avoid conflict and not
24 tolerating straight talk, honesty or directness.

25 I stand as a resident of the city in

1 absolute opposition to any casino operation in this
2 city. Especially as they look at Center City the 8th
3 and Market site, and the North Philadelphia site.
4 Folks have said how good a location either one of
5 those are. They're terrible locations. The North
6 Philadelphia site especially is right in the midst of
7 a number of public education schools. Charters, as
8 well as public schools. Close to Temple University,
9 close to community college.

10 North Philadelphia, at one time, was a
11 thriving, thriving corridor of industry, the garment
12 industry. Those industries took their leave and went
13 where there was cheaper labor. A very proud corridor
14 and neighborhood I served in the late '70s right
15 through the early '90s. Saw jobs leave the city in
16 droves. Let's not replace those jobs with jobs that
17 are not good paying, that often prey on the employees
18 to use their hard earned money and turn it back into
19 the casino itself.

20 My friends, I would like you to consider
21 that there is no good location in Philadelphia for a
22 casino. There is no good location in Pennsylvania for
23 a casino. There is no good location in the United
24 States of America for a casino. Look at what goes on
25 inside and what happens to the people. In my own

1 church a young couple left their two children in the
2 middle of the night to take a \$300 bonus from work to
3 see if they could double it, triple it, quadruple it
4 at the local casino. Left those two young children,
5 and now they're paying the consequences of what it is
6 to have been parents who have now neglected their
7 children.

8 They lost that money. They lost
9 credibility in their community. And perhaps even lost
10 the faith of their children. Some say this is a
11 battle of David against Goliath. I'd just like to
12 remind you that every time I read that story, David
13 wins. Thank you very much.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER:

15 Dan Hajdo.

16 MR. HAJDO:

17 Hi, my name is Dan Hajdo. And I am here
18 representing Casino-Free Philadelphia. And Casino-
19 Free Philadelphia is also a part of the no casino in
20 our city coalition. Members in which are in the
21 audience right now. Thank you, Reverend Hynicka, for
22 an excellent statement of facts. What I'd like to do
23 then is to give some ideas on how we move forward.

24 Given what we know about casinos and
25 gambling addiction, which proposal should the PGCB

1 pick? Well, we think it is option seven, none of the
2 above. All of these casinos fail in the same way.
3 For example, none of them offer any evidence to
4 support their claims of economic development. Anyone
5 can pull numbers out of the air, but they need to back
6 them up. And they haven't done it.

7 All of them follow the same business
8 model. A business model that aims to profit off
9 gambling addiction. That's what casinos do. They're
10 open 24/7. They base most of the revenue off of
11 slots, which is consistently --- study after study
12 shows slots are the most addictive. They say, the
13 most associated with gambling addiction.

14 So, what can we do going forward to make
15 sure that we come to the correct decision? Option
16 seven. For one thing, I think this is a chance for
17 the Gaming Control Board to reestablish its
18 credibility. Credibility damaged, as you all know, by
19 things like the Grand Jury Report, the scathing report
20 that said this Gaming Control Board made its decision
21 based on something, but it didn't seem like it was
22 based on suitability.

23 The response was, well no one was
24 indicted and that's true, but I think Gaming Control
25 Board seven years and no indictments is not the most

1 encouraging slogan. So, how can we move forward and
2 establish something more credible? Casino-free
3 Philadelphia and, I'm sure, our coalition is willing
4 to work with the Gaming Control Board to help out.
5 For one thing, greater transparency, I know you've
6 been striving over time to allow for greater
7 transparency, and yet we still don't quite know how
8 this decision is going to be made. It's going to be
9 made by certain suitability, and it's going to be made
10 on the grounds of the casino serving the public
11 interest, but we just haven't seen the evidence that
12 any of that is going to take place.

13 So, for example, let me just address the
14 main issue, which is not economic development, which
15 is not revenue. It's gambling addiction. It's what
16 goes on in these casinos. What the casinos do. And
17 here I'm hoping you can, as they say in math, show us
18 your work. Let us know how you're arriving at your
19 conclusions because so far the answer I think has been
20 wrong, and we really don't know how you keep coming up
21 with the wrong answer again and again.

22 So, for example, there are three major
23 surveys on patrons of casinos. And those surveys show
24 that either it's 30 percent or 70 percent of the
25 patrons of casinos are suffering from at least one

1 symptom of gambling addiction. That says to us,
2 casinos are profiting off of gambling addiction.
3 Without that, they go out of business. And so, what
4 evidence do you have that says, that's not the case?
5 We haven't seen it.

6 I know evidence is difficult to collect
7 on such things, but the casinos have a lot of data
8 that would help. So, we'd like to see that data
9 collected. We'd like to see surveys done. And we'd
10 like to know why it is that casinos can claim that
11 they're not profiting only off of gambling addiction.

12 For example, also the National Gaming
13 Impact Study 1999 reports that the revenue coming from
14 people who have no reported symptoms of gambling
15 addiction was negative for the casinos. That is to
16 say, people with no symptoms of gambling addiction
17 reported that they had net gains. It was only the
18 people with at least one or more symptoms of gambling
19 addiction that reported net losses. So, based on that
20 information, if casinos were not mainly servicing
21 people with gambling addiction, they'd be losing
22 money, they would go out of business. Just not
23 possible that they could do business.

24 Now, there's all kinds of problems with
25 this data, but they have information that could help

1 us. And of course, we could always collect more
2 information. If you already have evidence that says,
3 no, that's not the case, well then, we'd like to see
4 it. We haven't seen it so far. We haven't seen it
5 from the Board. We haven't seen it from elected
6 officials. We haven't seen it from the Applicants.
7 We haven't seen it from the current casinos.

8 And I think it is your obligation both
9 to yourselves and your credibility, but to the city to
10 show that evidence. Now, it's not a coincidence that
11 casinos profit off of gambling addiction. Everything
12 they do is aimed at getting people to come more often,
13 stay longer and lose more. Another problem with that,
14 which would be fine for other businesses, is that
15 consistently the evidence shows there is what is
16 called a dose response relationship between the number
17 of visits and the risk of gambling addiction.

18 So, necessarily, if you are trying to
19 get someone to come again, and again, and again, and
20 again, and again, and again, you are raising the risk
21 of gambling addiction. And that's how you end up with
22 30 to 70 percent of casino patrons suffering from at
23 least one symptom of gambling addiction. Now, just to
24 put that in perspective. One study shows that the
25 limits, the cutoff points, for low risk gambling would

1 be two to three visits a month to a casino. Two to
2 three a month. After that, the risks tend to spike
3 up.

4 SugarHouse, and other area casinos,
5 reported that their average visitor comes in three to
6 five times a week. Three to five times a week. All
7 right. So, doing the math real quick, that's six to
8 ten times over the recommended cutoff point for low
9 risk gambling. Six to ten times. If we were to
10 compare that to, say, alcohol consumption, where the
11 cutoff point for males at least is 14 drinks a week.
12 Six to ten times per month to 84 to 140 drinks a week.

13 Now, if you were to come across somebody
14 who had 84 to 140 drinks a week this week, next week,
15 the week after next, the week after next, the week
16 after next, I don't think it would be difficult to
17 say, you know what, you might want to consider
18 counseling. We have that situation now with the
19 casinos. It's not difficult to tell who is suffering
20 from gambling addiction, and who is at risk. The
21 casinos may say, well, we don't know. How can we
22 know? It's very easy. Oops. Does that mean to stop
23 or is that ---?

24 PRESIDING OFFICER:

25 Your time is up.

1 MR. HAJDO:

2 Oh. Okay.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER:

4 Thank you. J. Andrew Greenblatt.

5 MR. GREENBLATT:

6 Good morning. My name is Andrew
7 Greenblatt, and I am the Executive Director of the
8 Philadelphia Film Society. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit
9 organization with the mission of utilizing film's
10 unique capacity to engage a broad cross section of the
11 community, while also providing access to these
12 powerful films to increase education and
13 understanding.

14 The Film Society is most principally
15 known for, and accomplishes, this mission through the
16 production of the annual Philadelphia Film Festival,
17 which attracts approximately 35,000 attendees and will
18 celebrate its 22nd anniversary this October. We also
19 host many screenings and events throughout the year.
20 I'm here today in support of Bart Blatstein and Tower
21 Entertainment.

22 I've been the Executive Director for the
23 Film Society for the past four and a half years. In
24 2010 I moved our offices up to the Northern Liberties
25 area because the incredible changes that Bart created

1 and the new spirit of the neighborhood. It fit us
2 perfect. Shortly after we moved to the area I met
3 with Bart about the future needs of our organization.
4 Bart immediately recognized our need to have a home in
5 order for us to take the next step as a successful
6 nonprofit organization in the city. However unlike
7 most people, Bart pledged to do something about it and
8 to try to make it a reality.

9 Over the next several months Bart spent
10 a great deal of time admirably working with us to
11 develop plans for us to convert one of his existing
12 properties in Northern Liberties into a multipurpose
13 screening venue to be used by the entire community.
14 But we ultimately settled on a different site, and we
15 took over the Roxy Movie Theatre on Sansom Street.

16 Bart's dedication and support of our
17 efforts were fantastic and endlessly appreciated.
18 He's proved again and again to be a tremendous
19 supporter of us, of the arts in Philadelphia and of
20 the nonprofit community. I'm sure he will do great
21 things with the North Broad site, as he did everywhere
22 else he's worked. Thank you for your time.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER:

24 Cheldin Rumer.

25 MS. RUMER:

1 Hello. How are you? My name is Cheldin
2 Barlatt Rumer. I am CEO and President of I-G
3 Creative. We are located in Northern Liberties. As a
4 minority owned, female owned business in the economy
5 looking for a new space in order to grow our business
6 and cultivate, you know, our creative minds of young
7 people that work directly with I-G. We were searching
8 all over the city in order to find a new home. Once
9 we came across The Piazza and Liberties Walk, that was
10 it.

11 We want the space. Had an opportunity
12 to sit down with Bart Blatstein and his team, and as
13 well as well as the Tower Investment community as a
14 whole, and determined that I-G Creative's perfect home
15 would be located at Liberties Walk. We transformed a
16 retail space that was existing into a business to
17 business community studio, and an interactive space to
18 bring our global clients to Philadelphia.

19 We are lucky enough to represent clients
20 such as, Google, Red Bull, and a number of different
21 other properties that we've taken from a global
22 standpoint to a local community. And we were able to
23 do so in an aggressive way through the support of Bart
24 Blatstein and Tower Investments.

25 When I heard of the new opportunity to

1 bring a casino to the Philadelphia area I was excited.
2 As an ex-marketing executive from Atlantic City, and
3 was part of the launch project of the most successful
4 casino that exists in Atlantic City today, I said,
5 what an amazing opportunity to bring that kind of
6 energy and contribution to the Philadelphia area. I
7 was intricately part of that real strong change in
8 community that happened. That happened in Atlantic
9 City, that will happen in Philadelphia if we're able
10 to support this North Philadelphia project.

11 Now, also as an executive and a
12 consultant for the tourism corporation here in
13 Philadelphia, and working on a number of projects to
14 bring global tourism as well as national tourism to
15 Philadelphia, this project, this casino, this multi-
16 use entertainment venue coming to North Philadelphia
17 will only be a benefit to the city and the economic
18 growth of the City of Philadelphia. Thank you for
19 your time.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER:

21 Owen Kamihira.

22 MR. KAMIHIRA:

23 Good morning. My name's Owen Kamihira.
24 I'm a restaurant designer, restaurant owner and 30
25 year resident of Northern Liberties. I've designed

1 restaurants for casinos in Las Vegas and Atlantic
2 City, for Jeffrey Schara, I've designed restaurants
3 for Steven Starr.

4 Eight years ago Bart Blatstein
5 approached me and wanted to get my input into what his
6 development could do for Northern Liberties. And
7 subsequently, he hired me as a design consultant.
8 He's done a pretty incredible job working with the
9 community and developed, obviously, what everybody
10 knows as the Liberties Walk and The Piazza. I think
11 that he will bring the same kind of energy and
12 commitment to a large project on Broad Street and
13 follow through with it. That's about it. I'm
14 throwing my hat in support for Bart Blatstein. Thank
15 you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER:

17 It is now about a quarter after 10:00.
18 We're going to take a short break and we'll reconvene
19 again at 10:30.

20 SHORT BREAK TAKEN

21 PRESIDING OFFICER:

22 Please have a seat. We'll begin now
23 with our next speaker. Richard Ullman.

24 MR. ULLMAN:

25 I'm grateful to the Gaming Control Board

1 for this opportunity to speak in response to the six
2 proposals before you. Proposals for a second casino
3 in William Penn City of Brotherly Love. My name is
4 Dick Ullman. I'm a retired pastor. I live in Center
5 City.

6 I can claim no legal, architectural,
7 traffic engineering, urban planning or other technical
8 expertise on the specifics of the proposals before
9 you. Yet certain things that pop up about each.
10 These pop ups seem to me rather much like warts
11 erupting on the fair skin of a beautiful face.

12 For instance, one developer proposes a
13 second casino on the Delaware River, virtually in
14 walking distance from the one already up and running.
15 Or should I say, stumbling. The one running already,
16 and the other casino proposed make a mockery of the
17 months long process of community conversation,
18 consensus building and careful city planning for
19 development of the Central Delaware Riverfront.

20 A second, for instance, of a wart on a
21 pretty face. Another developer asks you to consider
22 of all astounding things, the roof of a parking
23 garage, where he asks all of us to believe an
24 entrepreneur's fantasy of a French village may
25 materialize. One could continue in this vein,

1 pointing out the weaknesses of each project proposal.
2 But the main thing is this, just because the
3 legislature says there may be two casinos in
4 Philadelphia, must there be?

5 I would bid you, go to first principles.
6 William Penn, our city's founder and Pennsylvania's
7 first governor, 329 years ago penned a prayer for
8 Philadelphia. What love, what care, what service and
9 prevail have there been, he prayed, to bring this city
10 forth. He prayed, therefore, that this city might be
11 preserved from such as would abuse and defile it, and
12 that the city might be kept from the evil that would
13 overwhelm.

14 The evidence is ample and compelling.
15 Casinos grounded in greed, both individual, corporate
16 and governmental. Grounded on greed and prospering on
17 human weakness, casinos enrich the few at the expense
18 of the many. Their contribution to the public purse
19 pales in comparison to the costs borne by individuals
20 and families whose lives are damaged, and the
21 government's left holding the civic bag.

22 The greater the promise is made on
23 behalf of casinos, the more profound the failure. One
24 will need only to look over to Atlantic City to see
25 how that works out in real life. Surely one of the

1 central duties of those who govern, such as you who
2 serve us on the Gaming Control Board, one of the
3 central duties to use is in the words so elegantly
4 penned by William Penn, is to preserve us from such as
5 would abuse and defile, and to keep us from evil that
6 would overwhelm.

7 Because a legislature prescribes, must a
8 thing come to pass? The clear answer throughout
9 history is, no. Let me refer you to another of our
10 founders who dwelt in Philadelphia at key times in our
11 history. Thomas Jefferson in his famous work notes on
12 the State of Virginia he considers what the
13 legislature said about establishing towns and cities.
14 He says there are other places in which the laws have
15 said there shall be towns. But nature has said there
16 shall not. And they remain unworthy of enumeration.

17 Honorable members of the Board, I bid
18 you to consider that the present may be such a case
19 where the laws say but you rule otherwise. Thank you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER:

21 Katina Anerousis.

22 MS. ANEROUSIS:

23 My name is Katina Anerousis, and I'm
24 speaking on behalf of Casino Revolution and Mr. Joe
25 Procacci. I also work for a family owned business

1 here in the City of Philadelphia. And I have had the
2 privilege of working with Mr. Procacci and his
3 successful business since 1994.

4 Mr. Procacci started out as a youngster.
5 He had a thought. He had a dream. He had an idea,
6 and he turned it into reality. Turned in --- the
7 reality turned out to be bigger than the dream. Why?
8 It's a thriving, successful business that Mr. Procacci
9 has here in Philadelphia. It's a business he started.
10 He didn't buy a business. He wasn't handed a
11 business. He didn't buy into a business. He started
12 the business from scratch. That, in itself, says a
13 lot. There are not many successful businessmen that
14 can say that.

15 Mr. Procacci's years of exceptional
16 management has created the successful business, which
17 has made an economic impact on the city, and it's
18 supported the city. Through this business, he
19 supported the city by paying taxes, city tax, real
20 estate tax, business privilege tax, use and occupancy
21 tax, all the taxes that the city has. More
22 importantly, he's created jobs. He's created jobs,
23 and they weren't temporary jobs. It's long term
24 employment.

25 The jobs have created a sense of

1 security for the employees knowing that they have a
2 job there tomorrow, and knowing that their employer is
3 going to be there tomorrow. That, in itself, is
4 priceless. The key to the success, I feel, is
5 management. We need the ventures in the city to be
6 successful, and it only happens when you have
7 successful management. Mr. Procacci has demonstrated
8 that for over 60 years.

9 It's a management that's involved in the
10 daily operation. It's a management that cares. It's
11 a management that has the knowledge and the know how.
12 It's a management that knows and understands the City
13 of Philadelphia. Those are just some of Mr.
14 Procacci's attributes. And these are management
15 skills we need to have a successful casino in the
16 city.

17 Over time you'll see that there has been
18 a lot of money, time and effort spent in saying,
19 support your local businesses. So I ask you,
20 shouldn't we be supporting our local businessman? A
21 local businessman who's created jobs, a local
22 businessman who has generated revenue for the city,
23 who has helped in support the city, who has proven
24 management skills in this city. And I say that there
25 are three important things to issuing a casino

1 license. And that's, management, management,
2 management. Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER:

4 Paul Boni.

5 MR. BONI:

6 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of
7 the Board. My name is Paul Boni, and I'm a Board
8 member of the national advocacy group, Stop Predatory
9 Gambling. We are a member of the coalition, and
10 support the coalition's efforts.

11 Last year Robert Reich, one of our
12 country's leading economists, wrote as follows, and I
13 quote, organized gambling is a scam, and it
14 particularly preys upon people with lower incomes, who
15 assume they can't make it big any other way, who often
16 find it hardest to assess the odds, and whose families
17 can least afford to lose the money, close quote. From
18 last year, the National Review wrote, quote, gambling
19 is a racket, not a tool of economic development, close
20 quote.

21 I have three points to make here today.
22 Number one, everything the casino does have the effect
23 of maximizing addiction. Locating now in big, dense,
24 poor cities, being open 24/7 for the alcohol,
25 exemptions of the smoking ban, easy credit. When

1 you've tapped out your ATM card and your credit card,
2 you can now gamble on borrowed money. The machines
3 are addictive. On 60 Minutes, no less, the industry's
4 top researcher admitted that machines are the
5 crack/cocaine of gambling.

6 Number two, you have a legal obligation
7 to represent the public interest. This just --- this
8 doesn't just mean maximizing the revenue. This means
9 to protect the consumer. Develop measures to decrease
10 the cultivation of problem gamblers. This may
11 decrease revenue, but that's what you're obligated to
12 do. De-fang the industry from hurting people. And if
13 the statute restricts what you can do, then speak out
14 against the statute. When consumer protection bills
15 come up in the House of Representatives, support those
16 bills. Embrace reform. Embrace consumer protection.

17 Number three, Philly does not need a
18 second casino. No one can make the case that it's too
19 inconvenient for a Philadelphian to get to a casino
20 today. We have --- our area has four casinos. We're
21 only preying on our own, our local population. With
22 Asian gambling rooms, restaurants, styled as noodle
23 houses, free shuttles that go deep into the
24 neighborhoods.

25 A casino on North Broad Street, please

1 no. A casino on Market Street so convenient to a huge
2 commuter hub, no. Or down deep in South Philly, no.
3 Or another one in Fishtown, this time closer to
4 Kensington and Old Richmond, please no. These are the
5 people you should be protecting. We are among the
6 poorest big cities in the country. Don't do this to
7 us.

8 The Pennsylvania gambling revenues are
9 beginning to decline year over year. You saw the
10 statistics from the beginning of this month. We don't
11 need another casino. Please reject all applications.
12 Please protect the public interest. To any casino
13 Applicant here today, I ask you to withdraw your
14 applications. Do what's right for Philadelphia.
15 Thank you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER:

17 Vincent Curtis.

18 MR. CURTIS:

19 Hi. My name is Vincent Curtis. I'm
20 Vice Principal of the Mathematics, Civics and Science
21 Charter School. We're located at 447 North Broad
22 Street of Philadelphia. Directly across from the
23 School District of Philadelphia.

24 We at Mathematics, Civics and Science
25 Charter School oppose the casino being there in North

1 Philly. That's one of the largest catchment areas for
2 the school children in the City of Philadelphia. And
3 y'all know about that. There's tons of schools there.
4 My school alone is from grades one to 12. We have
5 elementary schools, middle schools, high schools,
6 community colleges. There's enough distractions
7 already. We're already competing for our children's
8 attention. So, I would like for this group to focus
9 on the children.

10 Now, personally, I've only been in
11 Philadelphia since May 7th, 1947. I was born in to a
12 family who were broke. And remember there's a
13 subculture of a culture. I want to share a little
14 reality. Right now over 40 percent of all the kids in
15 Philadelphia drop out of school who are in public
16 education. We're closing schools right as you've all
17 been reading, but we're building prisons.

18 There's a 400 percent increase in female
19 juvenile delinquents in prison right now. And the
20 young men, I even worry about who's Lindsay going to
21 marry. That's my granddaughter. She's 12 now. If
22 you take ten African American male kids, three are
23 gong to be locked up, two might be on drugs, two might
24 have alternative lifestyles. You may have one that's
25 kind of successful, but he's going to be so stuck on

1 himself that he ain't going to have time for just one
2 girl. At the end of the day you might have one guy
3 who's ready to start and build a family, but you're
4 going to have 75, 80 young ladies trying to date him.
5 Who is Lindsay going to marry?

6 We're very concerned about the quality
7 of life for people. We know, as educators, that 63
8 percent of all marriages fail in three to seven years.
9 The other 40 percent are in court trying to decide
10 whether or not they'll stay together based on assets
11 and kids. The bottom line is that our families are
12 being torn down all over. The quality of life is
13 horrible. There's something about children now that's
14 so insensitive they will kill you if they disagree
15 with you. It's a reality.

16 By putting that casino downtown on Broad
17 Street, you're going to give access to every type of
18 character kids that you can imagine. Now, we know
19 what's reported, we can only imagine what isn't
20 reported. Here's our reality. Do you want your nice
21 child to be pulled up at a stop sign and have some
22 angry people on the side because they're suffering
23 because they have the disease of addiction? Not
24 necessarily gambling, that's a behavior. Not drugs.
25 But there's something inside of us that would make us

1 obsessive and compulsive trying to go after something
2 we want so bad. In school we spend a lot of time
3 trying to stop our children just from those gaming
4 machines and those --- they're so addictive. They
5 scream and they fight over these things.

6 We have developed a society of kids
7 that's unimaginable to us. Now, what I'm sharing with
8 you is giving these young people an opportunity. I
9 was born poor, I was broke, and yes, I dropped out of
10 high school. Yes, I went into the service and became
11 a combat veteran. And it didn't take me long to
12 realize that minimum wage is not going to raise no
13 family. But what I did have is some middle class
14 values. As a result after the service I was able to
15 work my way back through school. I've been blessed.
16 I now just completed my third graduate degree.

17 What I'm saying is that I'm not boasting
18 about me, I'm saying, the key to a serene and happy
19 society is an educated society. I just met with the
20 Secretary of Education not too long ago, Mr. Duncan in
21 Washington D.C., and we both agree. A few years ago
22 we were number one in the world in education, now
23 we're number 14. There's no jobs for young people.

24 Already if you want to find a trick,
25 that's a young girl who's selling herself, they're

1 dropping out of school, what do you think they're
2 doing? They're hustling out there. They're going to
3 be downtown. They're going to bring their little
4 sister. If we don't do something about education in
5 the city, --- what I'm suggesting is these owners get
6 together and let's do a win/win. Let's take some of
7 those revenues or they're going to get --- the
8 business of America is business.

9 I was listening to all the change makers
10 here this morning, and I understand. We all know that
11 casinos are built on losers, not winners. And the
12 people who normally lose are the ones who don't have
13 anything to lose in the beginning. It is what it is.
14 But our children, they won't make the choice. We need
15 their attention. We need to help to teach middle
16 class values so they will realize, at the end of the
17 day it's not about stuff.

18 As we get older we all are learning and
19 starting to discover we'd rather have peace than be
20 right. Give these children an opportunity to have
21 peace. At my school we're very fortunate. We have a
22 zero dropout rate. We have 100 percent accepted to
23 college and universities. We have a success story for
24 13 years. We know it can happen. But it's not easy.

25 Urban education is more than a notion.

1 You all know what's going on --- casinos --- but we
2 can work this out. I'm suggesting that some of that
3 revenue goes towards education. I don't want to spend
4 my last retiring --- I just signed for my Social
5 Security check the other day. I'm happy about that.
6 Y'all don't know what I'm talking about, you young
7 people right here. But I'm telling you, I don't want
8 to be locked in to no community where I'm too afraid
9 to go out. I'm too afraid for my grandkids.

10 America is a hard place to live. And
11 there's no place like Philadelphia. We know guys who
12 are trafficking young girls to Atlantic City that's
13 hustling. We know what these boys are doing out here.
14 They don't own businesses. People from other
15 countries, societies come to look at urban America and
16 see who's running all the businesses. Where do you
17 think they get their money from? They're already
18 buying property in downtown. We're going to realize
19 the nightmare in this country if we don't start
20 educating ourselves in some spiritual applications.
21 I'm talking about just being a good human being.
22 That's what we need to do.

23 My wife is also principal in her own
24 school. She got her proposed budget for the next
25 school year. She cannot have a secretary, no books,

1 no paper. We have to wake up and understand and
2 appreciate what we're doing as a society of people.
3 It's a global thing going on. We have to educate our
4 children. They can't go downstairs --- downtown to
5 Center City to shop without having big fights over
6 what? An item?

7 What do you think is going to happen ten
8 years from now? Ten months from now? Ten days from
9 now? What do you think is going on right this minute
10 while we're sitting out here trying to decide whether
11 or not we're going to let some activities here that's
12 going to put more stress, more pain in the adults, in
13 the adults, than we've ever imagined before. I hope
14 that we can collaborate --- casinos are coming.

15 I didn't make this world, I didn't
16 create it, I can't cure it, I can't change it, but I
17 have to learn how to live in it. And so do our
18 children. We can teach them, but we can't do it
19 without resources. We can love them, but we can't do
20 it if we're not home with them. Disease of addiction
21 has nothing to do with gambling, it's just a symptom.
22 Our children are already addicted. They don't
23 understand what no means. They don't realize that N-O
24 means, like, stop, no. Because they've been driven by
25 passion of more already.

1 I don't know if I'm making sense to
2 anybody in here. But if we don't stop what we're
3 doing right now and Corporate America needs to learn
4 to leave more on the table, because at the end of the
5 day, I'd rather have peace than stuff. I'd rather my
6 granddaughter have a chance of being fortunate like we
7 have in having a family. I would like every American,
8 every person, to have what we call middle class
9 values. To love thy neighbor.

10 And I Isaiah Chapter 42 verses six and
11 seven, I'm just going to paraphrase. He said, you
12 want to have joy, be of good service to others. You
13 measure your self worth as an individual based on how
14 you impact the lives of other people. Sinners are
15 takers. Sure, all these shop people, they're going to
16 benefit, they're going to get money. They roll it in,
17 they roll it out, they make plenty of money. But the
18 way the tax structure is set up the children don't
19 benefit from it except for cheap labor ---.

20 The mayor tells me that we have 23
21 percent of the jobs set aside for unskilled workers in
22 Philly. But already our unskilled workforce is 53
23 percent. So, if you have a relative or friend say, I
24 can't find a job, I'm trying. Well, if you don't have
25 no skills you got to wait 'til someone quits one of

1 those jobs that nobody really wants so then maybe you
2 can get it until you quit.

3 What I'm saying is that, the paradigm
4 has shifted. Our children are different than what we
5 were. We have to take a look at that. A casino's
6 going to come. The decision's already been made, I
7 believe. But let's work it out. Let it be a win,
8 win, win, win, win. And let's strive collectively
9 together. I'm telling you, I'm tired of reading the
10 news. I'm tired of reading the things that are
11 occurring, but what we're doing to each other.

12 I pray that you don't put it on Broad
13 Street. I pray that the casino people work together.
14 I'm willing to work personally with them. But I'm a
15 --- I survive me. Help us protect our children
16 that's in Center City. Thank you so much.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER:

18 Rachel Falkove. No Rachel Falkove?
19 Glenn Sutch.

20 MR. SUTCH:

21 Good morning. My name is Glenn Sutch.
22 I'm the operations director right here at XFINITY
23 Live!. It's the city's premier dining and
24 entertainment center located in the heart of the
25 Stadium Complex right next to the Wells Fargo Center.

1 XFINITY Live! is a joint venture between Comcast
2 Spectacor, the owner of the Wells Fargo Center and the
3 Philadelphia Fliers, and the Cordish Companies.

4 The 50,000 square foot building's home
5 to more than a dozen dining and entertainment venues,
6 including the upscale Spectrum Grill, Broadstreet
7 Bullies, which is a classic American pub, Victory Beer
8 Hall, which brews their own beer right here in
9 Pennsylvania, and the first of its kind, NBC Sports
10 Arena with a 32 foot LED screen. The development of
11 XFINITY Live! is just phase one of a larger project
12 called Philly Live!, that is a combination of Comcast
13 Spectacor Chairman, Ed Snider's vision to transform
14 this major Stadium Complex from empty parking lots to
15 a thriving area and a commercial enterprise.

16 The entire Philly Live! project,
17 approved by the City's Planning Commission and City
18 Council, comprises 450 square feet of dining,
19 entertainment and retail development, plus a new 300
20 room hotel. The Philly Live! project is an integral
21 part of Philadelphia 2035, the Philadelphia Planning
22 Commission citywide vision for long term development
23 in the city.

24 Taking advantage of the great highway
25 and street access to the Stadium Complex area, and the

1 subway station at the corner of Pattison and Broad
2 Street, the lower south plan of Philadelphia 2035
3 contemplates long term commercial and residential
4 development on both sides of Pattison Avenue.

5 The proposed location of the Live! hotel
6 and casino, a short walk from XFINITY Live!, will be
7 an impetus for the continued development of the
8 already approved Philly Live! development plan. The
9 Cordish Companies will be in a unique position to
10 integrate the two projects, which will bring thousands
11 of new jobs, millions of dollars of new economic
12 growth to the City of Philadelphia.

13 In particular, it's a spill over from
14 the Live! hotel that generates significant additional
15 interest in building the approved 300 room hotel next
16 to XFINITY Live!, providing a valuable resource for
17 more than eight million people who attends the events
18 in the Stadium Complex. And growing businesses
19 located in the adjacent Navy Yard.

20 As a developing partner for XFINITY
21 Live!, the Cordish Companies are responsible for all
22 phases of construction and development of XFINITY
23 Live!. The construction was completed in just 12
24 months, with great support of the local unions. In
25 addition, the XFINITY Live! project was constructed

1 under a broad economic opportunity plan with the City
2 of Philadelphia. EOP provided targets for minority
3 and women owned businesses. The dedication of XFINITY
4 Live! development team to meet EOP targets resulted in
5 47 percent of eligible contracts being held by
6 minority and women owned businesses, substantially
7 exceeding the targets of EOP.

8 Part of XFINITY Live's! commitment to
9 the city under the EOP is to move the local workforce,
10 one that I'm proud of. Today, 13 months after
11 opening, more than 20 percent of the employees at
12 XFINITY Live! who work for me live within the four zip
13 code areas under the Stadium Complex. XFINITY Live!
14 is proud of its role in bringing life, vibrancy,
15 economic development and jobs to the empty parking
16 lots of the Stadium Complex.

17 Having the Live! hotel and casino nearby
18 will drive the continued transformation of South
19 Philly into the strong, economic tax base that this
20 City of Philadelphia deserves. Thank you very much.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER:

22 Mark Kapczynski.

23 MR. KAPCZYNSKI:

24 Good morning. My name's Mark
25 Kapczynski, and I'm the President of Whitman Council,

1 and also a lifelong resident of Whitman. I'm here
2 today to express our support for our neighbor, PHL
3 Local Gaming, and their bid to obtain the remaining
4 casino license here in the City of Philadelphia.

5 This decision was very difficult for
6 Whitman Council and its board members, but most
7 importantly, for the residents of the Whitman
8 community. Make no mistake, we are supporting PHL
9 Local Gaming with our eyes wide open. Knowing the
10 many critical issues surrounding a casino project
11 adjacent to a vibrant, residential community and the
12 potential negative impact it could have on our
13 community.

14 That being said, we are confident that
15 the local ownership and management team will have the
16 best interest of the Whitman community in mind as the
17 project moves forward. The creation of the Casino
18 Revolution Special Services District, was a
19 significant factor in our decision making process. We
20 firmly believe the creation of a special services
21 district, for the benefit of Whitman and its
22 residents, will provide services that we have lacked
23 for many years.

24 We are confident that PHL Local Gaming
25 --- that the PHL Local Gaming organization will

1 deliver, as promised, a quality project that provides
2 employment, security and other long lasting benefits
3 to the neighborhood we love.

4 Let's consider the projected economic
5 impact this project will have on our community, in the
6 City of Philadelphia. Total project cost, \$428
7 million, with projected annual revenue to the city of
8 \$147 million. Countless direct and indirect jobs, and
9 over 1,200 union construction jobs. The principle
10 owner of PHL Local Gaming, Joe Procacci, is no
11 stranger to our community, and is no stranger to
12 economic sustainability.

13 His company, Procacci Brothers Sales,
14 has been a good corporate neighbor since being founded
15 almost 60 years ago. The majority of his current
16 workforce are residents of the City of Philadelphia,
17 with a significant amount living right here in South
18 Philadelphia. And we expect that trend to continue
19 with the new casino project.

20 Lastly, Whitman Council, its Board and
21 the residents of the Whitman community relied heavily
22 on Joe Procacci and his proven track record of success
23 when committing our support to this controversial
24 project. Knowing Joe Procacci's history in the South
25 Philadelphia community weighed heavily on our

1 decision. We look forward to working with our
2 neighbor, PHL Local Gaming, and the Casino Revolution
3 Special Services District, and we wish them the best
4 of luck in obtaining the remaining Casino License here
5 in the City of Philadelphia. Thank you very much.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER:

7 Joe Ashdale.

8 MR. ASHDALE:

9 Good morning. My name is Joe Ashdale.
10 I am the business manager of District Council 21. We
11 represent unionized painters, glaziers, drywall
12 finishers and paper hangers in the Delaware Valley.
13 We are also partners with three employer associations.
14 The AMPD, which is the Painter's Association. IFCA,
15 which is the Drywall Association, and AGMA which is
16 the Architectural Glass and Metal Association. They
17 represent 300 large and small contractors, also in the
18 Delaware Valley.

19 I've lived in the City of Philadelphia
20 my entire life. I still live here today. And so, I'm
21 pretty familiar with all, in one way or another, all
22 six applicants here today. But I'm here to speak on
23 behalf of Wynn, Philadelphia.

24 In this area unemployment in the
25 building trades ranges anywhere from 20 to 40 percent.

1 Many contractors, a lot of them small mom and pop
2 operations, are struggling to meet --- make ends meet.
3 So, any new construction project in this region is
4 more than welcome. Supporting the largest project
5 would seem a no brainer for somebody from the building
6 trades. But there's a little bit more to that story.

7 I called my peer in Las Vegas, a fellow
8 by the name of John Smerk (phonetic) I said, John,
9 these are the operators and the --- that are --- have
10 proposals for the second license in Philadelphia, tell
11 me what you think. And John said, Joe, you have to go
12 with the Wynn organization. They are --- and these
13 are his words. He says, they are the pioneer of the
14 Las Vegas gaming industries. His vision transformed
15 the city into what it is today with the \$750 million
16 Mirage project.

17 Now, he said that may not sound like a
18 lot of money in casino dollars in Las Vegas, but when
19 that project --- that project at the time was the
20 largest private construction project in the history of
21 the United States. It had to generate a million
22 dollars a day to pay the interest on the bonds. And
23 the experts said it would never work, but it did. And
24 because of that, Wynn transformed Las Vegas into what
25 it is today. And he pays his bills, but that's not

1 the end of that story.

2 When we went into the recession, all
3 kinds of things happened in the casino industry in
4 Vegas. And Vegas became --- had the highest
5 unemployment rate in the United States. So, John sent
6 along some articles detailing how the Wynn
7 organization, when the economy tanked, made multi-
8 million dollar donations to unemployed workers in that
9 city.

10 It may seem like a drop in the bucket to
11 a Wynn organization but it made a difference, and it
12 proved that he did not turn his back on the community.
13 And they handed out \$500 and \$1,000 gift cards, which
14 helped make mortgage payments, tuition payments, and
15 in a couple cases, put some gasoline in a car so that
16 that person could go drive and find another job. He
17 treats people with respect and dignity.

18 So, back to Philadelphia. We have a
19 saying in the building trades and construction
20 industry that it's easy to get a job, it's easy to bid
21 a job and it's easy to get a job. Getting paid for
22 that project is another matter, and that happens
23 often. And, you know, we happen to be standing in a
24 building today that, when this project was completed,
25 approximately \$40 million was still owed to the

1 contractor --- or contractors and subcontractors. I
2 happen to be a glazier. This glass was put in by one
3 of my glazier contractors. At the end of the project,
4 he was owed \$5 to \$6 million.

5 They offered him 15 cents on the buck,
6 which was unacceptable. Now he's not paying --- he's
7 not getting his money, he doesn't have the money to
8 send to the union for the member's health coverage,
9 pension, benefits and wages. When members run out of
10 health benefits, everybody pays. So, we called our
11 politicians and friends up in Harrisburg and said, you
12 know, look, 30/40 percent of this building was
13 financed by taxpayer dollars from Pennsylvania. Help
14 us. Help us get paid.

15 And the answer came back, the longer we
16 make those subs wait, the less they'll accept. That
17 was the answer. One sub out of all the trades got
18 paid in full. And that was only because they were a
19 national company that had a ton of money to fight it.
20 That also happened in Atlantic City in the '80s. I
21 think everybody's pretty familiar with that. That a
22 lot of work got done and at the end of the job money
23 wasn't distributed to everybody.

24 That never happens on a Wynn project.
25 They finance their own projects, they pay their bills.

1 In the early '80s, I had just gotten out of my
2 apprenticeship and work in Philly was slow. I got a
3 call from my business agent. He says, Joe, go down to
4 Atlantic City, there's work. And we ended up working
5 on the Golden Nugget. We made a lot of money on the
6 Golden Nugget, they paid their bills. They paid my
7 contractor who paid me. I was able to sock away
8 enough money to help pay for a wedding and buy a home.

9 On the other side of town, members of my
10 union were working for somebody who didn't pay their
11 bills and didn't have their money. And then I say to
12 myself, I wonder if I didn't work on the Golden Nugget
13 for a Wynn project and I didn't get paid and I didn't
14 have money for a home and wedding, what would my life
15 be like today? And I say, maybe it's good not to
16 dwell. I'm still married and everything went well
17 ever since.

18 And then I said, so here's the deal,
19 Wynn Philadelphia will provide construction jobs, the
20 permanent jobs and a positive impact on our local and
21 state economy. I'm looking around at some of these
22 signs here today, without a job we've had these
23 issues. We've had suicides, addiction issues, spousal
24 abuse. And it's not from a casino, it's from a lack
25 of a job. When people don't work they have social

1 issues. Wynn has resources to support our local
2 contractors, to complete the projects on time in one
3 phase, and provide a sorely needed boost to our
4 economy. Thank you.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER:

6 Thank you. Thomas Earle.

7 MR. EARLE:

8 Good morning, Gaming Board. It's an
9 honor to be here. My name's Thomas Earle. I'm the
10 executive director/CEO of Liberty Resources, which is
11 a large nonprofit center for independent living that
12 is at 714 Market Street. We're also a very proud
13 member of the coalition for no casino in the City of
14 Philadelphia.

15 We are here --- I'm testifying on behalf
16 of my Board of Directors and the many thousands of
17 people, low income people with disabilities that our
18 organization serves. My opening statement is a
19 general opposition to the issuance of the second
20 license for a second casino in the City of
21 Philadelphia altogether. But more specifically,
22 because of our location at 7th and Market, we're right
23 around the corner from 8th and Chestnut.

24 Our center opposes the issuance of a
25 license to the 8th and Market --- 8th and Chestnut

1 casino proposal. The vast majority of people that we
2 serve as a center are low income people on fixed
3 monthly incomes. Social Security, their home support
4 services are funded by Medicaid through the Department
5 of Public Welfare. Most of them receive food stamps,
6 and some other form of public assistance.

7 I know firsthand what it's like towards
8 the end of the month, as people roll into my office
9 and tell me about how hard it is to make ends meet at
10 the end of the month. They don't have enough money
11 for a prescription co-pay for para-transit service,
12 any number of reasons. These folks are the types of
13 low income folks that get preyed upon in the predatory
14 gambling scheme that many casinos thrive on and make
15 their profits.

16 Unlike the few nonprofits who have
17 testified here today who have, in fact, received
18 monetary support from some of the developers, we are
19 proud that we have not accepted one penny from the
20 casino industry. We own our building at 714 Market
21 Street. It's 250,000 square feet. It includes retail
22 space on the first floor and office space on the
23 second through seventh floors. It's our vision as a
24 center for independent living to be a hub of forward
25 thinking, service oriented, nonprofit organizations.

1 In our building, we rent the space that
2 we don't use to Philadelphia Youth Network, which is a
3 support group for kids in the Philadelphia School
4 District. Achieving Reunification Center, which is an
5 organization that helps husbands and wives stay
6 together and raise their families. And a number of
7 other organizations, including Disabled in Action of
8 Pennsylvania.

9 It's our vision that these groups
10 continue to have headquarters and a home they can call
11 their own, and serve the many thousands of residents
12 in Philadelphia with the services they need. In
13 addition to the low income challenges that our
14 community tries to strive through everyday, we know
15 that there's a disparate impact on predatory gambling
16 on minorities as well.

17 Gambling addiction for national figures
18 in a national survey showed that white, Caucasian
19 population has a gambling addiction rate of under two
20 percent, while African Americans, Latinos and Asians
21 have a rate of gambling addiction at eight percent or
22 greater. This disparate impact, as a decision making
23 factor in your selection of the license has to be
24 important.

25 Eighth and Market is, as a previous

1 testifier testified, is a regional transportation hub.
2 We have the tourism of Independence Mall, the Liberty
3 Bell, the National Constitution Center. We have a
4 public high school at 7th and Market Street. We have
5 the Independence Branch of Public Library, Thomas
6 Jefferson where he signed the Declaration of
7 Independence is at the corner of 7th and Market
8 Street, right next door to our building.

9 We do not want a casino in this
10 neighborhood. It will --- I think it's an
11 embarrassment that the cradle --- or the birthplace of
12 liberty and independence of our country took place
13 right in Independence Mall, and we want to taint that,
14 potentially, with the location of a casino nearby.
15 One would think that, well, hang on. You guys own the
16 building, you'll benefit from this type of
17 development.

18 We do not believe that, and nor do we
19 support in principle. And in the spirit of
20 independent living, that economic development in the
21 City of Philadelphia should occur on the backs of hard
22 working, low to middle income class workers who are
23 prey to the predatory gambling practices of these
24 casinos. We really don't want it in the city at all,
25 but especially at 8th and Market. We also have an

1 alliance with many members of the Chinatown community.
2 We know that they may be testifying later, and that
3 they are also against this as well.

4 In conclusion, I'd like to just say that
5 we already have the experience of one casino in
6 Philadelphia, the SugarHouse operation on the
7 Waterfront. Liberty Resources, prior to buying its
8 building at 7th and Market, actually had its
9 headquarters at Penn Treaty Plaza Park right in the
10 office complex there on North Delaware Avenue.

11 We have seen and heard about the success
12 or the alleged success of SugarHouse. We've also read
13 about people being mugged in the parking lot as they
14 leave with their winnings. We've heard about people
15 who work at the casino being mugged in the parking
16 lot. And the latest information that we've read about
17 in the Philadelphia Inquirer includes environmental
18 pollution by this casino dumping construction material
19 and trash into the Delaware River causing them to be
20 sanctioned and fined by the Department of
21 Environmental Protection of over \$750 million. This
22 is not the type of development and neighbor we want in
23 any part of Philadelphia.

24 We ask that you --- we go on record here
25 as Liberty Resources strongly opposing the issuance of

1 any license, and we ask that the Gaming Board withhold
2 the issuance of any license in Philadelphia, and
3 perhaps maybe reconsider and have this type of casino
4 operation open in Harrisburg. Maybe at Strawberry
5 Square right next door to the Gaming Board Commission.
6 I don't think that would be something you'd be
7 interested in.

8 It's really not the type of economic
9 development that we want to see. The gentlemen,
10 business people who are behind these large projects, I
11 have no personal grudge against them. They're smart
12 people. They've done a lot of good things. Some of
13 their companies have given a lot of money to other
14 nonprofits and other causes. We know that about Mr.
15 Blatstein. We know that about Mr. Procacci. We know
16 Mr. Wynn --- Steven Wynn has retinitis pigmentosa,
17 which is the same source of vision loss that I have
18 that's causing me to lose my vision.

19 I'm sure he's a gentleman. It's not
20 about them. This is about the millions and billions
21 of dollars that they represent, and their
22 organizations represent, and what they can do to
23 economic development in this city. All of the job
24 creation, all of the positive things that have been
25 said are one thing, and they're measured and

1 documented and promoted.

2 What we're not hearing about is the
3 social cost of casinos on families. And we heard
4 about a family who the father and mother sneak out in
5 the night in order to roll the dice with a \$300 bonus
6 check. This --- these are desperate times. We cannot
7 have, as a form of public policy and urban
8 development, the promotion of these types of
9 operations.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER:

11 I'm going to have to ask you to wrap up
12 your comments.

13 MR. EARLE:

14 Thank you. Lastly, just another reason
15 for not having it in the Stadium Complex, we know
16 about gambling addiction in professional sports, such
17 as Pete Rose, who was a great baseball player. The
18 NFL, Major League Baseball and other leagues, they
19 don't want their players gambling before games or
20 after games. So, in conclusion, please do not issue
21 the license. Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER:

23 Ellen Somekawa.

24 MS. SOMEKAWA:

25 My name is Ellen Somekawa. I'm the

1 director of Asian Americans United, and a member of
2 the no casino in our city coalition. Our prisons are
3 filled with addicts and drug dealers. The sky is the
4 limit on portion of state funding spent on
5 incarcerating drug users. While the casino industry,
6 a business that purposefully fosters addiction on the
7 scale that would put any drug dealer to shame. It's
8 not only legal, it is pushed by our government,
9 enforced on our people.

10 How is it that those who seek to force
11 gambling addiction on our communities get to call
12 themselves civic minded developers and show slideshows
13 of chandeliers and spas, as if glitter and glitz can
14 make pushing addiction respectable. Bart Blatstein,
15 Joe Procacci, Ira Lubert, William Landman, Ken
16 Goldenberg, Walter Lomax, you guys want to profit from
17 a business that purposefully drives its customers into
18 poverty. A business that uses science to figure out
19 how to make its product more and more addictive. And
20 then, you're going to call it economic development
21 when you're increasing poverty, bankrupting local
22 businesses and causing foreclosures.

23 You're going to call it entertainment
24 when the gambling addiction that you cultivate
25 increases spousal abuse, suicide and child neglect.

1 These are not side effects of your business, they are
2 your business. Casino economics nearly brought about
3 the collapse of the world financial system. And now
4 our state government can't wait to place its bet for
5 salvaging its budget on casinos.

6 You want to fund the government --- you
7 want to fund the business of government. Educating
8 our children, policing the streets, caring for our
9 elderly, sheltering the homeless. You want to fund
10 this business of government by increasing child
11 hunger, boosting crime rates, impoverishing the
12 elderly and driving up foreclosures. You want to fund
13 the public sector by impoverishing people? This is
14 like building a crack house to fund our schools.
15 Building a meth lab to pay for fixing our bridges.
16 Loan sharking to lower property taxes. And then you
17 have the nerve to come to Philadelphia. The poorest
18 large city in the U.S.

19 Our First Congressional District has the
20 second highest level of food insecurity in the entire
21 nation and you're going to come here and force a
22 casino on us when you know that the whole point of
23 casinos is to get their customers to play 'til
24 extinction. To gamble until they have tapped out
25 their bank accounts, their mortgages, their credit

1 limits until everything is gone.

2 In a state that is less than three
3 percent Asian, you let SugarHouse tell you that they
4 need a dedicated and expanded Asian gaming area and
5 you don't even wince. The Parx boasted that their
6 table game expansion, quote, enable us to offer a
7 larger Asian variety to our mix of games. And with
8 buses from New York and Philly Chinatown, targeted
9 marketing, a Chinese language tab on their website and
10 one in their six workers Asian, the targeting at Parx
11 Casino is clear. It's the kind of racial profiling
12 that SugarHouse and Harrah's are working hard to
13 replicate.

14 And that isn't enough for you? You need
15 to put one more in a city where the Asian community is
16 an easy target? Local casino owners have boasted of
17 the big percentage of their client base who go to
18 their casinos three, four, five times a week, as if
19 that's an index for their financial health. Do you
20 not get that those clients, those gamblers they are
21 talking about are our neighbors, our family members,
22 our co-workers, our friends? Do you not get that?

23 You might see dollar signs and tax
24 revenue when they tell you those statistics, but what
25 we see is what we see in our communities. The teenage

1 boy who's pressured by his family to drop out of
2 school because his father lost everything in a casino.
3 The children who are awake all night because their
4 mother's been beaten because she wouldn't hand over
5 the family budget to her spouse to go to the casino.

6 We see the small business owner whose
7 small profit margin has disappeared because there is
8 just less to go around in our community. Is there a
9 point where you will say enough to this blatant racial
10 targeting of Asians by this predatory industry? Is
11 there a point when you will say enough to the
12 extraction of grotesque profits squeezed from the
13 poorest city in the Commonwealth? Is there a point
14 when you will say enough?

15 PRESIDING OFFICER:

16 Steven Tran.

17 MR. TRAN:

18 Good morning. My name is Steven Tran.
19 I'm the president of the Chinese Benevolent
20 Association. I represent my association for today's
21 testimony. I've been working hard together with the
22 business association in Chinatown to build up a nice
23 place for tourists to visit in Philadelphia. I don't
24 think we need another casino in Philadelphia. We have
25 enough trouble right now.

1 Since SugarHouse open two years ago I
2 know a lot of friends divorce. A lot of family broke
3 up. That's why. Because of casino. The payday, the
4 left hand got a salary and the right hand put in the
5 casino. No money home. Children no food. Children
6 no coat. So what? Finally divorce.

7 A lot of small business have slowed down
8 because no money floating around. The crime rates
9 will be increasing because people poor and poor, no
10 money. They got to go out do something. The casino
11 owner who's rich and richer. How everybody see the
12 casino going to bring you any wealthy like money. Who
13 going to win the money from casino? No way.
14 Everybody going to be broke because of casino. I will
15 tell you that today, we have no good place for casino
16 in Philadelphia.

17 I hope everyone going to be strongly
18 against casino. Do they want to come? I got about
19 1,000 petitions in my hand who's against a casino in
20 Philadelphia. So, please do think careful before you
21 approve anything. Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER:

23 Steven Mac.

24 MR. MAC:

25 Good morning. My name is Steven Mac.

1 As a community leader and a small business owner, I'm
2 here today for this testimony that's spoken at the
3 bottom of my heart for my community, and perhaps
4 myself.

5 I was in school in the '80s in the
6 Philadelphia area. Our families and children in this
7 beloved city. I have a lot of friends, we've been
8 growing up together have a career in Philadelphia.
9 Have a business in Philadelphia. The past few years
10 since the casino been developed in our little town I
11 have friends who get divorced, lost their business
12 because of the addiction of the gambling problems.

13 And not just that, the wives who turn
14 their self as prostitutes to try to make some money on
15 the side to feed her addictions. Casino, as my point
16 of view, is a poison to our community, to our family.

17 We do not need any more casinos. There is enough in
18 our city, in our Commonwealth. The tax revenue that
19 we pull in today that may fix what we have, what we
20 need, what we urge through economy of hardship.

21 But by years later, I know for a fact
22 that all the problems the casino cause will be costing
23 the government billions and billions of dollars to
24 have --- to solve all the problems that we have as
25 what they did pay to the community, to the city and to

1 the State of Pennsylvania. So, I urge the Gaming
2 Control Board to have to be a really considered. As a
3 Pennsylvanian, what we are doing as of today and the
4 consequences that we'll have to pay in our future, our
5 children's futures, what we going to end up with and
6 what we would have. Thank you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER:

8 Mabel Chan.

9 MS. CHAN:

10 My name's Mabel Chan. I'm the community
11 --- Chinese community leader and restaurant owner.

12 INTERPRETER:

13 My name is Su Ling (phonetic) I'm with
14 Asian Americans United, and I'll be Ms. Mabel Chan's
15 interpreter today.

16 So, here are some of the issues that
17 impact our China community in our city. One, the
18 impact on traffic. The traffic is already bad in
19 Chinatown because of the PA Community Center. People
20 come to meetings and conventions. We cannot add
21 another casino to put our residents in a very intense
22 environment.

23 This also impact our residents in
24 Chinatown. The families break up because of gambling.
25 Couples fight each other, it breaks children's hearts.

1 Family lose financial stability. Sources of food is
2 not stable. The kids cannot live on. Poverty costs
3 lives. And the kids cannot focus on school. And we
4 make them to take one step toward crimes.

5 We also have serious safety concerns.
6 When people have no money to get by they are forced to
7 rob others. They disrupt our resident's peace.
8 People cannot live without being concerned in the
9 neighborhood.

10 I own and operate a restaurant. In my
11 restaurant many employees have gambling addiction.
12 Gambling causes broken families. They ask me to pay
13 them in advance because they spent all of their money
14 in the casino. How can they take any money home to
15 give their kids and pay for living expenses?
16 Community members' income goes to the casino. People
17 have less money to consume at local restaurants and
18 other businesses. And some of the businesses in
19 Chinatown have already shut down.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER:

21 I'm going to have to ask you to wrap
22 your comment. So, if you want to translate what she
23 just told us, and that will be the end.

24 INTERPRETER:

25 Sorry?

1 PRESIDING OFFICER:

2 Translate what she just told us, and
3 then we'll --- her comments will be done.

4 INTERPRETER:

5 I'm repeating exactly what she said.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER:

7 Would you please translate what she just
8 spoke to us, and then her comments will be over?

9 OFF RECORD DISCUSSION

10 PRESIDING OFFICER:

11 I'm asking him to tell us what she just
12 spoke to us. Can you translate what she just said to
13 us? Thank you.

14 INTERPRETER:

15 We already have the SugarHouse Casino in
16 our community. They bus people to the casino to
17 gamble every day. If we have another casino the
18 crimes will increase. More families will lose their
19 money for support. And we will see more broken
20 families. At the time, what will the government do to
21 save its citizens? The casinos say they will have a
22 counseling program for those who are addicted to
23 gambling. So, they are not addicted.

24 If gambling increase addiction, why we
25 open more casinos that create addictions, create

1 broken families? I ask our government not to put
2 another casino in our community, in our city. It will
3 only make our city poor and unsafe. Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER:

5 Thank you. Lai Har Cheung. Lai Har
6 Cheung.

7 MS. CHEUNG:

8 Thank you for giving me the opportunity
9 to speak to you. I figure I --- I actually wanted to
10 take the chance to tell a story to all the casino
11 owners. I want to talk to them too but they, you
12 know, have never really spoken to anyone in our
13 community.

14 I just want to tell them a story about
15 this man named John Newton. He was a businessman.
16 And he was engaged in a business that was very popular
17 and very profitable, and all his peers were doing it
18 at the same time. And he started having feelings
19 about it. Like, hmm, maybe this business isn't a
20 little right, I'm not sure about it. And he had this
21 spiritual awakening. And he was like, maybe I need to
22 change.

23 And it took him eight years to change,
24 and he stopped the business. It took him a long time,
25 but he pulled himself out of the business, became a

1 pastor, became a man of religion and spirituality.
2 And he wrote a song, and the song was called Amazing
3 Grace. And in that song, he talks about being lost
4 but that now he's found.

5 The industry we talk about that he was
6 engaged in was called slave trading. It was very
7 popular, very profitable. But he didn't know what he
8 was doing. The majority of people didn't know what
9 was happening to the slaves. They're just workers.
10 We need them. They help us get money. People didn't
11 know what was going on. But he had his spiritual
12 awakening. I'm asking these owners, all casino
13 owners, to have their moment and think maybe one day
14 you will be that same man who writes a great song.
15 And maybe you will find redemption. And that is my
16 hope, and that is my prayer.

17 So, thank you. I want to be able to
18 talk to the casino owners for a minute. My name is
19 Lai Har Cheung. And I speak on the behalf of people
20 who take the brunt of compulsive gambling, yet have no
21 voice, the children of gambling addiction. I went
22 into the casinos in Atlantic City at a very young age.
23 I actually brought a picture of myself, but forgot to
24 bring it up to show you.

25 I was a little girl, about six years

1 old, wearing a little unicorn shirt. And that was
2 probably at the age when it all kind of started.
3 Started going to casinos where my mom would get into a
4 bathing suit, we'd go to Atlantic City, go for a day
5 at the beach. And then they would spend a couple
6 hours at the casino and we'd go home. Everything's
7 great. Happy, happy.

8 We couldn't go into the halls with our
9 parents so they put us into like --- they send us to
10 this video arcade so we can play. They gave us rolls
11 of quarters. But little did I know that my siblings
12 and I were being groomed to be future addicts. Slot
13 machines, video games. I walked into these big,
14 glitzy places and was determined to build something
15 like this for my parents. Because that's all they
16 wanted to go to, and if I needed them to love me I
17 would build something like that --- just like that.
18 Because all that mattered was money. All that
19 mattered was money. Money, money, money.

20 If we had money, lots of money,
21 everything will be okay. That's all we needed, just a
22 little bit more money. That's what we hear from the
23 casinos because that's what they teach. A value
24 system that puts money first and people second. And I
25 believed these values too for a while. Until our

1 occasional family outings turned more frequent. We
2 would spend anywhere from two to eight hours waiting,
3 waiting for them to come out. We sat there not
4 knowing if we were being abandoned, they basically
5 ditched us here, or if anything happened to my
6 parents.

7 Each visit got worse, and I will witness
8 the hopelessness in their once bright and shiny eyes.
9 They were young people with a dream, with hopes for
10 their family living well. Living the American dream.
11 Because the illusion of prosperity and grandeur
12 gradually silently turned into a living nightmare.
13 Violence, abuse, lying and stealing became the norm.
14 The truth came out, though. There are things money
15 cannot solve. And when marriages fail, and when
16 children go wild with rebellion and self destruction,
17 where lives are ruined and lost, no amount of money
18 can fix it.

19 I'm asking that you use your highest
20 wisdom and your deepest conscience to protect
21 Philadelphia's children like your own, and to prevent
22 the spread of casino gambling. I might talk ---.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER:

24 I'm going to have to ask you to wrap up
25 your comments.

1 MS. CHEUNG:

2 They might talk about measures like
3 having an exclusion list. I know it's a joke.
4 Because when casinos want you to stay gambling they
5 send interpreters. But when they --- you need help
6 because you can't stop gambling, there are no more
7 interpreters. No one is there to help. I saw my
8 family getting exploited every single year, and I had
9 enough.

10 And it's not just my family. I met
11 numerous families who've lost a loved on because of
12 this addiction due to suicide. And now in the news I
13 read about the local murder of a baby girl and her
14 grandmother over a \$15,000 loss at Valley Forge
15 Casino. Industries ---

16 PRESIDING OFFICER:

17 Now your time is up.

18 MS. CHEUNG:

19 --- preying on people ---

20 PRESIDING OFFICER:

21 Ma'am, your time is up.

22 MS. CHEUNG:

23 --- and urges them ---

24 PRESIDING OFFICER:

25 I'm going to ---

1 MS. CHEUNG:
2 --- to lose ---
3 PRESIDING OFFICER:
4 --- have to ask you ---
5 MS. CHEUNG:
6 --- all their money ---
7 PRESIDING OFFICER:
8 --- to sit down.
9 MS. CHEUNG:
10 --- before they take them over, someone
11 else's life.
12 PRESIDING OFFICER:
13 Sit down.
14 MS. CHEUNG:
15 They push people over the ledge. But
16 before you say that those people, that those addicts,
17 I want to point out faults.
18 PRESIDING OFFICER:
19 We're going to a ---
20 MS. CHEUNG:
21 I want to stand a ground.
22 PRESIDING OFFICER:
23 --- take a break now.
24 MS. CHEUNG:
25 A prominent researcher of human behavior

1 says, we are the most in debt, obese, medicated adult
2 cohort in U.S. history. We are all vulnerable. Do
3 not allow them to prey on each and every one of us.
4 We are all vulnerable on that side, this side, NFL
5 player, beggar on the street. We are all vulnerable.
6 And I ask you to use your power as Commissioners to
7 stop the development of a second casino.

8 I leave you with a quote by Martin
9 Luther King. Morality cannot be legislative, but
10 behavior can be regulated. Judicial decrees may not
11 change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless.
12 Thank you for your time and your attention. Thank
13 you.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER:

15 Eric Joselyn.

16 MR. JOSELYN:

17 I request a moment to just let it soak
18 in. My name is Eric Joselyn. I live with my family
19 in Olney. Good morning to the Board. Today I'm
20 feeling lucky. So lucky that I'm willing to make a
21 bet. I'm willing to bet that this Board right here is
22 going to do the right thing. And they're going to
23 adopt a plan. They're going to vote for something
24 that's gonna protect, protect our residents from the
25 worst of this predatory business. Instead of voting

1 for a plan designed to maximize our exposure to the
2 damage every party knows comes with any of the
3 proposals before this body.

4 So, I bet, I bet, --- well, you can't
5 win them all. So, I bet, I bet though you can
6 recognize the civic pride at play here. We want our
7 sports complexes clean. We want it remembered for
8 Pete Rose the player, not Pete Rose the gamer. We
9 want our waterfront known for Penns Landing, not
10 daddy's financial crash landing.

11 I bet, I bet you can calculate the cost
12 the benefits of a Center City known for the avenue of
13 the arts, the flower show, the Liberty Bell. Instead
14 of sticking us with a legacy of drunk slot losers
15 relieving themselves in the alleyways. I bet, I bet
16 --- well, I only need one big roll to get back on my
17 feet. So, I bet, I bet you all can drive on down that
18 gamblers express to Atlantic City, or maybe just catch
19 the free bus in Chinatown with your cup of quarters.
20 And you can walk around the east coast casino
21 dreamland.

22 But then, I bet you're going to wake up
23 and look at the local business wasteland that's in the
24 shadow of these casinos. Wake up to the reality of
25 the impoverished residents that live in the foothills

1 of their mountains. Hey, AC, Dr. Phil wants to know,
2 how's that working out for you? I bet --- I know
3 today's my day. My luck's going to turn around, I can
4 feel it. So, I bet, I bet you're gonna hold out your
5 rubber stamp, yes, yes, yes, vote. Just long enough
6 to put a face on the known and freely admitted rise in
7 the numbers of gambling addicts every one of these
8 schemes before you will create.

9 I bet you've already seen one child too
10 many locked in your gaming megaplex parking lots.
11 You've studied the numbers on abuse, divorce, neglect.
12 They come with a yes on any of these. And I bet you
13 won't want to be responsible for any more of that.
14 I'm just bound to win, I can feel it in my bones. And
15 so, I bet you're not going to want to be party to the
16 blatant racial profiling that's spelled out in every
17 one of these business growth models. I bet that you
18 get a little queasy when the casino lawyers lay out
19 their intentions to target the Asian and Slovak
20 communities. And you just don't want to be part of
21 sanctioning that kind of racism gambling --- sorry,
22 gaming industry style. That's my bet.

23 I bet --- I just need one more roll.
24 Just one more roll. I bet, I bet you can take the
25 time to run those old news clips that show thousands

1 of marchers taking over the streets to protect
2 Chinatown from their stadium scheme. And you're going
3 to realize that doesn't bode too well for some feel
4 good ground breaking ceremony on North Broad Street.
5 I bet you're going to go back and read the 25,000
6 signatures protesting the last scheme to put a park
7 --- a casino right here on Market Street, and you'll
8 figure out that that's just a list of a whole mess of
9 people who are willing to disrupt any attempt to
10 target Chinatown or other residential neighborhoods
11 around this city.

12 Well, I just need one roll. One more
13 roll. But I do bet, I do bet that the residents of
14 this city are not going to quietly allow you to build
15 any business here, such as these designed to do us
16 more harm. Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER:

18 Thank you. Wayne Gibbs.

19 MR. GIBBS:

20 Greetings. My name is Wayne Gibbs. I
21 am a licensed and ordained Baptist minister. I also
22 am an admissions coordinator and work with court
23 adjudicated young men in the City of Philadelphia.
24 But before I was any of those things, I was a friend
25 of Ken Goldenberg and the Goldenberg Group.

1 I met Ken and Annie, as they are
2 inseparable, over 15 years ago as my son, Kenneth, and
3 Kenny's son, Joshua, enrolled at Germantown Friends
4 School as first graders. Ken and Annie had been
5 assigned to my wife and I as mentors as those that
6 would allow us to adjust to the Friends school
7 community, and I have to say that they did an
8 outstanding job during the 12 years that my son
9 attended that school.

10 Our sons have grown together since the
11 first grade. Ken has invited me and my family to his
12 home, and he has also visited my home though we are on
13 polarizing sides of the social economic order. While
14 our sons, Joshua and Mike are approaching graduation
15 and college, Kenny has always included my entire
16 family, including my wife Tanya, my six sons and my
17 daughter, in everything that he had at his home.

18 Kenny has attended and orchestrated
19 birthday parties for Mike and Josh, as they are both
20 leap year babies. He has attended my son's athletic
21 events, and also given my entire family opportunities
22 to participate in youth baseball and basketball in the
23 Mt. Airy and Chestnut Hill area. Ken is obviously a
24 gifted businessman, he's a prototype husband and he is
25 an amazing father to Micah (phonetic), Lila

1 (phonetic), Josh and Hank. But I'm most impressed by
2 his friendship, dedication, loyalty and faithfulness
3 to my family and I.

4 Some other words I would use to describe
5 Ken Goldenberg as a person is that he is compassionate
6 about everything that he does. He is sincere about
7 every relationship that he establishes. He is driven
8 towards succeeding in everything that he puts his hand
9 to. He is loving as a father, husband and friend.
10 And he is affectionate, as you get to know him
11 personally.

12 He is power yielding in this arena,
13 which I am rather new to. But besides that, he is a
14 brilliant, wonderful friend. And if I may borrow from
15 a gentleman that spoke earlier as he quoted an ancient
16 document. There was a gentleman named Isaiah who
17 stated, and I paraphrase, he said, some of you will
18 rebuild the ancient ruins of the cities. You will be
19 known as a rebuilders of walls, and a restorer of
20 streets where people live at. That's how I would
21 describe Ken Goldenberg and the Goldenberg Group.
22 Thank you for your time.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER:

24 Dan Homan.

25 MR. HOMAN:

1 Hi. I'm Dan Homan. I heard a group
2 present a four step approach that they tried to follow
3 to help stop human trafficking. The first step is
4 victim relief. Then victim after care. Then
5 perpetrator accountability. And finally, system
6 reform. During my activities with Casino-Free
7 Philadelphia, it came to me that we're working from
8 the bottom up. And system reform is a tough sell to
9 those who not only don't believe they're victims, but
10 actually also seem to believe that such activities are
11 a blessing to them and to their communities.

12 The only approach I believe might have a
13 chance at convincing people to stop gambling is a call
14 to consider the subtle, but dangerous directions into
15 which such practices lead. Let's start.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER:

17 Bryan Dilworth.

18 MR. DILWORTH:

19 I come here in support of Tower
20 Entertainment. My name is Bryan Dilworth. I'm a
21 talent buyer and producer for Electric Factory. In
22 the past I've worked for both Electric Factory and
23 Live Nation Entertainment booking and producing talent
24 at many local venues here at Lincoln Financial Field,
25 Wachovia Center, as well as Live Eight and countless

1 other shows, both booking and production.

2 Three years ago I became a tenant at the
3 Rialta --- at The Piazza, which now houses the
4 corporate offices of Electric Factory. A short time
5 later I became a managing partner at Gunners Run, one
6 of the many establishments in The Piazza. It was
7 around this time that I started, at Bart's request, to
8 help produce a series of concerts at The Piazza known
9 as the Summer Block Party Series. This incredible
10 concert series has now gone for three seasons and is
11 already considered the most successful ever in the
12 history of Philadelphia.

13 Meeting Bart, I was immediately struck
14 by his passion for live entertainment and his regard
15 for not only the fan's experience, but their safety
16 and well being. In that short time I witnessed a
17 transformation of a neighborhood. A vision that
18 literally transformed a pile of bricks into a --- in
19 an underutilized part of the city to a thriving and
20 living and breathing addition to the city, one that
21 needed it. Northern Liberties' success speaks for
22 itself at this point.

23 As I speak to him these days about ideas
24 for North Broad Street, he talks with the same passion
25 he brought to the table before. I see an amazing

1 project, multi-layered and beautiful with
2 entertainment at its core. I don't doubt for one
3 second that given the chance, Bart's vision will
4 succeed again in an area so deserving of his
5 attention. In my mind, there isn't any other person
6 for this. A proven Philadelphian willing to be ---
7 and able to transform Philadelphia and Pennsylvania.
8 Thank you.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER:

10 Timothy O'Brien.

11 MR. O'BRIEN:

12 Chairman Ryan and distinguished
13 Commissioners, good morning. My name is Timothy
14 O'Brien. I'm testifying today as a civilian witness
15 supporting the Wynn casino proposal that hopes to be
16 constructed in the Port Richmond section of
17 Philadelphia on Waterfront ground of the former
18 Cramp's Shipyard.

19 I believe my testimony today is valuable
20 due to the fact that I was born and raised in the very
21 neighborhood that will sit in the shadow of this
22 proposed project. The message I bring today is based
23 upon an old saying that I'm confident all of us have
24 used or heard many times. Quote, they have paid their
25 dues. What do I mean by that, and who exactly am I

1 talking about? I'm referring to the residents of that
2 neighborhood where the Wynn casino and hotel will be
3 built.

4 You can take my word today, or you can
5 verify by research that the residents of that area
6 have lived day in and day out in the shadow of two
7 large monstrosities. One was the Anzon (phonetic)
8 Corporation, which processed Dutch Boy lead paints and
9 the other was the Cattie Galvanizing Plant, which
10 galvanized steel in large acid pits.

11 As kids in the neighborhood, we didn't
12 know or care what those plants did, or how our health
13 was being jeopardized every day. We only cared about
14 our stickball rules. If you hit the ball off the
15 galval wall as we called it, and if the ball was
16 caught you were out. We ran and hustled and breathed
17 in whatever they were dishing out. But as I say, that
18 was our life in the neighborhood that we loved and our
19 parents lived with that reality every day.

20 For those of you who may not be familiar
21 with this Port Richmond neighborhood, it's a place
22 where simple row house people filled with working
23 class people who have been paying their dues for
24 years. I stand here today as a resident and a parent
25 who looks forward to the day that finally, keyword

1 finally, our neighborhood and our children can have
2 something in Port Richmond that is truly remarkable
3 and a game changer for our neighborhood.

4 I have looked at the site plans of the
5 proposal, and I know this destination resort, and
6 that's exactly what it will be, will not just give
7 Port Richmond pride, but the City of Philadelphia.
8 The luxury hotel where every room, amazing to me, 900
9 square feet. Every room. That's larger than most, if
10 not all, homes in that Port Richmond neighborhood. I
11 know it's certainly larger than the one I lived in.

12 The luxury hotel is just one of the many
13 features of the Wynn proposal, there's going to be a
14 riverfront trail surrounding the site and over 20
15 acres of open space that the public will be able
16 access at no cost. Completely free. Ladies and
17 gentlemen, we're talking about a man who built a golf
18 course, Mr. Wynn, in the desert in Las Vegas. Mr.
19 Wynn is a visionary. His record speaks for itself.
20 Wynn Philadelphia will be a first class destination
21 resort that the world will know about, not just the
22 region.

23 I'm not sure if you're aware of this,
24 but the public hasn't been able to access that
25 particular part of the Delaware Waterfront since the

1 Cramp's Shipyard opened in 1830. The site hasn't been
2 active since the closing of the shipyard after World
3 War II. This --- and there's that word again.
4 Finally, our opportunity to revitalize this part of
5 the Delaware Waterfront. We have waited over 60 years
6 in that neighborhood to see an opportunity of this
7 magnitude. Let's not let it pass.

8 People in Port Richmond and Philadelphia
9 have waited long enough. My friends and neighbors
10 aren't just excited about how beautiful the site will
11 be, but the opportunity for young people in our
12 neighborhood. We're not talking about jobs, we're
13 talking about careers. And the Wynn organization,
14 they're career jobs. And we can only imagine how this
15 will jump start the Richmond Street corridor that sits
16 right there.

17 This Gaming Commission has an incredible
18 opportunity to not only select an applicant who knows
19 how to create a world class resort, but to revitalize
20 and breathe life into a desolate property, a
21 waterfront that's been waiting over six decades for
22 some attention. I thank you for your listening to my
23 testimony today. I hope you will grant Wynn this
24 license. I look forward to the day when generations
25 of families in Port Richmond feel that they have

1 finally paid their dues and can call a neighborhood
2 they love so much a world class destination.

3 Just breaking off my notes briefly, I
4 wanted to share with the Commissioners and Chairman.
5 I've seen the plans on this, and what stood out the
6 most and absolutely blew my mind was the fact --- I
7 had to look at it twice. And I said to the gentleman
8 standing next to me, I said, am I seeing this right?
9 That you can access the park, and the river, and the
10 amphitheatre, and the ice skating rink, and the shops,
11 and the restaurant without entering the gaming site. I
12 had to look twice. And the gentleman, who was much
13 more of an expert than me said, absolutely, you're
14 seeing it right.

15 I was very shocked. I know a little bit
16 about casinos, and usually they like to, as you're
17 heading with your spouse, or your friend, or your
18 significant other, they like to take you through the
19 gaming area before you get to that restaurant. So, my
20 point is, is that was very selfless of Mr. Wynn to let
21 people in the neighborhood go and say, hey, I was down
22 there last night. And the neighbor says, how did you
23 do? Did you win? Oh, we didn't gamble, we went down
24 and the kids ice skated, we went along the river, we
25 had something to eat and we seen a show. I think

1 that's important. Thank you very much.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER:

3 Thank you. Jeffrey Keel.

4 MR. KEEL:

5 Good afternoon. My name is Jeff Keel.

6 I own two restaurants in the Fairmount section of the
7 city. Bishop's Collar and St. Stephens Green. Both
8 within easy walking distance of Bart Blatstein's
9 proposed Provence. As a restaurant owner, I welcome
10 The Provence in my backyard because it would give my
11 patrons an exciting entertainment option nearby post
12 inner fun that could only increase my business
13 dramatically.

14 Provence would also spark new
15 residential and commercial development in the still
16 emerging section of Fairmount that will benefit
17 everyone. Far from viewing The Provence's
18 competition, I view the project as a spark for
19 economic development for North Philadelphia, and a
20 source of pride for the city and state. Of all the
21 casino designs I've seen, none rival The Provence with
22 scope and beauty.

23 I ask the Board to focus not just on
24 which project can drive the greatest revenue, but
25 which project can have the greatest long term

1 beneficial impact in the city and state tourism.
2 Which project can be a true game changer? That
3 project, in my mind, is The Provence. Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER:

5 Joann McAfee.

6 MS. MCAFEE:

7 My name is Joann McAfee. I am here
8 today in support of PHL Local Gaming Commission with
9 the future Casino Revolution for the area at Front and
10 Pattison.

11 I have volunteered at Southeast Youth
12 Athletic Association for the past 17 years. Southeast
13 Youth Athletic Association, also known as SEYAA, is a
14 youth organization 501(c)3 nonprofit located at 7th
15 and Bigler Streets, right in the block where the
16 majority of the casinos would like to be built.

17 We are not funded by the city. We are
18 not funded by the state. There's no state grants
19 usually because it's a hard time to get a grant. And
20 we were contacted --- the only applicant that
21 contacted us was PHL Gaming and Mr. Procacci. And
22 they contacted us and asked what they could do for the
23 children at our youth organization. We met, and
24 within days we had a large scoreboard put on our main
25 baseball field, courtesy of Mr. Procacci and PHL

1 Gaming.

2 This is the type of help we can get if
3 PHL Gaming would be the Applicant that you guys
4 select. Mr. Procacci has been a staple in the
5 Philadelphia community as a businessman for many
6 years. There are many children at our field who their
7 parents, and many children who have been through the
8 program themselves are employed by Mr. Procacci.

9 We feel that the Front and Pattison
10 location is an excellent location because it's not at
11 the exit of the 7th Street Bridge where we are
12 located, and it's not --- it would not be congested
13 from the Phillies traffic, which is just blocks away.
14 We are not in anyone's special services district, and
15 we don't receive any amenities from the services
16 districts that are there now. For example, the street
17 cleaning. We're 20 feet from the boundary.

18 We would be in this boundary with PHL
19 Local Gaming. And we have 3,000 children from the
20 community surrounding the area that would be helped by
21 having Mr. Procacci, PHL Gaming and Casino Revolution
22 at Front and Pattison Avenue. Thank you for your
23 time.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER:

25 Joseph Garcia.

1 MR. GARCIA:

2 Good afternoon. My name is Joe Garcia.
3 I'm one of the founding members of Southeast Youth,
4 formerly it was called the South Philly Cowboys, but
5 that didn't go over too good so we had to change our
6 name to Southeast Youth. In all my years down there
7 all we did was try to hustle money off of one business
8 or the other. And as Joann said, the Procacci
9 Brothers, they came to us. And a lot of their
10 employees there went through our system. They played,
11 you know, sports, soccer, or baseball, or basketball.
12 And now, you see their children coming.

13 And I think the sports for children is
14 very important. And I think that if you watch a child
15 go through an organization and come out, like us, from
16 the age of six to 18/19 years old, that they become
17 better people. They become adults. You see them go
18 from children to adults, and then become parents. And
19 now, we're seeing their children. And, you know, it's
20 hard for working people to have two kids to play, you
21 know, put them through like our league because it's
22 not cheap, you know. We depend on our members for
23 everything.

24 And like I said, Mr. Procacci and their
25 organization, they employ some of our children that

1 came through, and now their children are coming
2 through. And I am in support of Mr. Procacci. It
3 will not affect us where we're located as far as
4 traffic. We get all our traffic from the Phillies
5 game. People that don't --- and the Eagles game, that
6 don't want to pay for parking. They park and congest
7 our field. So, when our members come in and out of
8 our complex, they have to go through this --- they go
9 through some traffic.

10 Being where the Procaccis would like to
11 build will have no affect on us, and would have less
12 effect to than I believe being closer to the stadium.

13 And with that, my --- our support, and the support of
14 our members, are for the Procacci Brothers and PHL.
15 They're the only ones that came to help us. And I
16 thank you. And if nobody wants this money, I will put
17 it to good use. It will buy a couple gallons of gas
18 for our bus.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER:

20 Second call for Rachel Falkove. Okay.
21 Scott Maits. Scott Maits.

22 MR. MAITS:

23 Hi. Good morning. My name is Scott
24 Maits. I'm the long term, but former vice president
25 of Delaware Valley Association of Rail Passengers.

1 I'd like to address the Commission on something that
2 affects all the casinos. I've been speaking to
3 various owners and representatives as best as can be.
4 I've been active in planning and transportation
5 planning and urban use things for the last --- close
6 to 30 years now. I've been primarily working on the
7 high speed rail for the northeast corridor.

8 But I'm here today to go back to
9 something that is integral to the long term success of
10 any casino that happens here. Now, I'm not a big
11 supporter of casinos. I have a 19 year old son who is
12 picking up dice in high school, so I have concerns
13 with them. I don't gamble, but I do think that when
14 things happen you have to maximize your opportunity to
15 minimize the negative impacts for them. And I
16 certainly know that a number of these developers
17 absolutely do want to do the right thing for the
18 community and maximize the benefits here. And one of
19 those things that needs to happen is what I'm going to
20 be talking about right now.

21 The deputy mayor for urban planning in
22 the city, Alan Greenberg, talked about how he doesn't
23 see the spin off benefits of casinos. We certainly
24 see the figures, the facts, the numbers of tax
25 revenues of other things that are happening, but he's

1 not seeing the benefits spread out. Now, some of
2 these casinos are located right in core areas, some
3 are out, let's say, further away from core areas, like
4 the three that would be along here. So, they have
5 different roles or needs, let's say, for
6 transportation.

7 But what is coming is, we're seeing in
8 the transit field that kids, my son, all over are not
9 getting the licenses. Public transit ridership is not
10 going up. It's not going up just because of a
11 recession, but it's going up substantially all over
12 the country, especially in city areas like this,
13 because people are just changing and they're really
14 starting to want to live in walkable areas and not
15 drive.

16 So, we have to be very careful where we
17 choose one of these things that it's not just massive
18 parking garages that in the City of Philadelphia are
19 worth --- cost anything like \$30,000 to \$50,000 per
20 structure parking spot to build, but that we take some
21 of that money and invest it into other connections,
22 transit, and not just bus because that will not
23 develop anything that then string out the benefits of
24 the casino, of the other developments and tie it to
25 other lines that actually work and make sense for

1 people.

2 The current line that goes to the
3 SugarHouse is so short that you have to transfer to a
4 subway after waiting ten minutes for a trolley, ride
5 for two minutes and transfer to a subway and wait five
6 more minutes. It doesn't really work well. A
7 waterfront line that comes down from, perhaps, the
8 Wynn location, certainly from the Spring Gardens
9 Street station and down and along here, as has been
10 projected for the city and by these casino sites and
11 over to the Navy Yard through the stadiums is a winner
12 for The Provence.

13 There's the city branch that's being
14 looked at for public transportation right through the
15 basement of the building. And any one of these
16 casinos --- the 8th and Market one would be on the
17 Center City loop that would actually use Chestnut
18 Street and probably wrap around to 8th and Market.
19 And SEPTA studied this years ago. I had some problems
20 with some of the things that they actually planned to
21 do.

22 The reason I brought all this paperwork
23 up here was because just last night I got a response
24 from somebody that I've been working with for a number
25 of years. We were able to actually add their station

1 in Camden to a proposal, and it's actually a line that
2 runs from Camden to Glassboro. I know it's very hard
3 to make this out. I have whole stacks of paper here
4 on it. But the equivalent line in Pennsylvania was
5 supposed to be the waterfront line.

6 So, these things are very serious. It's
7 supposed to be in a study like this, I just happened
8 to have the South Jersey side of it and all. But it
9 also had some numbers for the Pennsylvania side within
10 it. And they said something like 90 percent of the
11 people who responded to the questionnaire were in
12 favor of public transit to the waterfront area and
13 down to the stadium.

14 So, I'm here and available to talk to
15 any developer, to talk to the casino Commission, or
16 anyone else about how a line could string together,
17 and work, and spread the development out so that some
18 of this money is invested into the neighborhood.
19 Thank you very much for your time.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER:

21 Thank you. And if you'd like to leave
22 your paper, we'll include that as a part of the
23 written comment in the record.

24 MR. MAITS:

25 I'll leave some of that. Yeah. I'll

1 pick one and run it back up to you in a minute. Thank
2 you very much.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER:

4 Steven Zhu.

5 MR. ZHU:

6 Hi. Good afternoon everyone. It is my
7 honor to have opportunity to speech. I only need two
8 minutes to tell two reason why we don't need anymore
9 casino in the state or in the city. And my name's
10 Steven Zhu. I'm the president of the Greater
11 Philadelphia Fujian Association. And also, I am the
12 general secretary of the Chinese Restaurant
13 Association.

14 The two reason I just wanted to let
15 everyone know what's going on. According to Chinese
16 takeout restaurant owner feedback, after casino open
17 they lost 20 percent of business income. This
18 restaurant --- currently I have 300 member in my
19 association. And citywide 500 takeout restaurant
20 citywide. The service mostly look like for low
21 income.

22 A lot of restaurant serves low income
23 population. And then, we've already been told, like,
24 some people only have \$20, \$30, \$40, maybe \$50 to
25 purchase food. But right now the idea they try to use

1 \$20, \$30 to make luck to go to casinos to spend the
2 money. And very unfortunately, they didn't make it
3 back. They're spending ten time --- they only have
4 \$20 and trying to make \$200 back. Very unfortunate
5 \$20 in only like a few minutes of their time.

6 Therefore, they don't --- have nothing,
7 no more money to buy the food. Therefore, this is,
8 for my feeling, this is a bad disaster for low income
9 population for casino business. Secondly, I think
10 it's only a while ago Chinese community --- owner
11 already like talk certain reason why we don't need a
12 casino.

13 According to my knowledge, some
14 employees, some business owner in Chinatown, they come
15 in and told me their employee always want them to
16 advance their paycheck. The paycheck that some people
17 already --- and some owner told me that some people
18 already have three months advance check because
19 they're gambling. They lost their money and their
20 salary, therefore they need an advance check to pay.

21 That's the two reason I gave you ideally
22 what's happening. Therefore, for my --- as my story
23 because the Pennsylvania state and the city tax
24 income. And the job creation is not a good idea to
25 depend the casino. Because we are understanding ---

1 everyone understanding money of the poor almost ---
2 because we only like the money, the tax income look
3 like from left hand side to the right hand side. The
4 money almost equal. Because Delaware State, New
5 Jersey already have a casino. Look like the only
6 thing we could become --- could create our income, tax
7 income, because of Pennsylvania residents who try to
8 let those people stay in Pennsylvania who cannot go to
9 the Delaware State and the New Jersey.

10 That's very limited to create kind of
11 income dependent casino. That's the reason I feel we
12 may not need anymore casino in the statewide or
13 citywide. Of course, I think that those population
14 --- so many family issue based on the casino coming
15 out. It's more casino --- especially people opposed
16 to the casino. They are very close to Center City,
17 especially Chinatown region.

18 Therefore, they will not like to see
19 Center City have another casino coming out. Looking
20 for 8th and Market and the Broad Street around the
21 area have another casino to be open could be as
22 disaster for those for them. Especially Asian
23 community there, gambling, a lot of people fail at
24 gambling. It's not a good idea to open anymore on the
25 surrounding Center City for casino of course. So,

1 final conclusion is that we may not need anymore
2 casino in the state --- statewide. Thank you. Thank
3 you everyone. Thank you for this opportunity to
4 speak.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER:

6 Thank you. That is the last name I've
7 been given. There are several people who registered
8 but did not register at the table this morning.
9 William Moore, Mark Sparacino, Chris Edge and Lynne
10 Fox. Okay.

11 I want to thank you all for coming today
12 and your cooperation. All the testimony and evidence
13 gathered during these four days of public input
14 hearing will become part of the record for the Board's
15 consideration when deciding which Applicant may be
16 awarded the final Category 2 Slot Machine License in
17 the City of Philadelphia. Thank you again, and the
18 hearing is now adjourned.

19 * * * * *

20 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 12:30 P.M.

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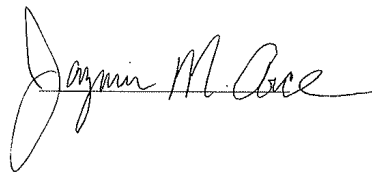
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings,
hearing held before Officer Lloyd was reported by me
on 5/9/2013 and that I Jazmin Arce read this
transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a
true and accurate record of the proceeding.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jazmin M. Arce". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the center of the page, below the main body of text.